EARLY ARMORIAL SEALS.

Collected by W. S. ELLIS.

A Collection of early Armorial Seals is of equal value with an early Roll of Arms, except that the latter gives the colours of the arms in the blazon; but it is of greater value in that, from the legends surrounding the seals, there can be no doubt of the owner of the seals, and that the bearings are accurate; whereas the names in the rolls are so corrupt in the spelling that often it is difficult to know who is meant, and even the blazon is sometimes differently rendered—a result of successive transcription by different hands. The Equestrian Seals (of which there are many) are not given in this list, when there are no arms on the shield, and that is rarely the case, more from their rude execution, than from the supposed reason that the bearers had no arms, or that it was before their general use (for the two plates of arms, borne 1150-1200, in my *Antiquities of Heraldry*, shows the contrary). In the time of Henry III the fashion arose of producing arms on shields or roundles alone on seals, and those are of better artistic execution; whilst, *temp.* Edward III, most of the armorial seals of the period display exquisite workmanship, the field being generally diapered and the whole surface of the seal filled with tracery or designs of the most elaborate and delicate character. The numerous seals containing devices are also omitted.

FROM THE ARCHAEOLOGIA CANTIANA (16 vols. 1858-1886).

VOL. II, p. 411. *Ermine a cross fusilly* impaling *Three stays' heads caboshed.* Joan de Northwood, widow of Sir John de N. and daughter of Robert Here.[1] 21 Ric. II. Legend :—S' D'ne Joh'e de Norwode.

Ermine, cross engrailed. Sir Roger de Northwode, 14 Ric. II. Legend :—Sigillum Rogeri Northwode.

On a chief 3 lions rampant, a bendlet over all. Sir Thomas de Bickenor, Knt., *circa* 1300. No legend.

On a cross 5 eagles, 42 Edw. III.[2] Legend :—Sigillum Rogeri Dygge.

A cross crosslet.[3] Sir Richard Atte Lese, Knt., 42 Edw. III. Legend :—Sigillum Ricardi atte Lese.

Ermine, 3 lions rampant on a bend, 20 Ric. II. Legend :—Sigillum Jacobi . . e Bourne.

Six lions rampant, a canton ermine, 17 Ric. II. Legend :—Sigillum Ricardi Cheyne. This is the coat of Shurland, whose heiress married the grandfather of Sir Richard Cheyne.

VOL. III, p. 141. *Chequy, a canton ermine and a label of 3 points,* no date. Seal of Sir Ralph Raynes. Legend :—S. Radulfi Raynes.

Fretty impaling *a cross between 4 lions rampant* dimiated. Sir James de Echingham. Legend :—S. Jacobi de Echingham.

Barry pily over the whole field. Seal of Almaric Earl of Gloucester, *qui ob.* 1213. Legend :—Sig. Almarici · Comitis Glovernie. Counterseal of same. Legend :—Secretum A. Comitis Glovernie.[4]

VOL. III, p. 143. *Quarterly a bend over all,* 5 Edw. I.[5] Legend :—S' Hugonis de Brok.

Ermine, 3 crescents pierced. Sir Henry de Longchamp, 15 Edw. III. Crest :—*A man's head with hat on.* Legend :—S' Henrici de Lungchamp. [A similar coat was borne by a Cobham. See their charters and seals in Nichols' *Collectanea Top. et Gen.*]

On a chevron 3 (?) lions passant,[6] 16 Edw. III. Sir Wm. Morant. Legend :—Sigillum Willielmi Moraunt.

Ermine on a fess (?) vair. Sir John de Isley, 25 Edw. III. Legend :—Sigillum Joh'is Isili. [In Nichols' "Topographer and Genealogist," is an exhaustive pedigree, by the late Mr. Steinman, of the families of Isley, Pimpe and Freningham.]

An eagle displayed, on its breast the arms of Joan Lady Cobham, viz., Berkeley, on its wings, the arms of her two husbands, *on a chevron 3 mullets* for Cobham, and *a lion rampant.* Legend :—S' Johanne de Cobham, 42 Edw. III.

Ermine a chief quarterly. Legend :—Sigillum Jacobi de Pecham, 49 Edw. III.

The same arms, shield ensigned by a demi swan. Legend :—Sigillum Jacobi de Pekham, 13 Ric. II.

[1] This is a Faversham name, and is found *temp.* Henry III and Edw. II. *Vide* vol. xiv. *Arch. Cant.* The name occurs only once in Burke's "Armory," and with quite a different coat.

[2] This was got by marriage from Abelin, or Albin, or St. Aubin. *Vide* "Early Kentish Armory," vol. xv, *Arch. Cant.*

[3] Three cross crosslets were borne on a chevron by Towne.

[4] Simon de Montfort, *qui ob.* 1264, bore *a lion rampant* on his shield, and *party per pale dancetté* on his banner, engraved in *Herald and Genealogist,* iii, 10, which states that there is a seal of Earl Almaric in the Harl. Charters (45 C 28), where three instances are given of this bearing, one being that it was the banner of the Honour of Hinckley, co. Leicester. And in Boutell's "Heraldry," there is engraven a seal of Sir Walter de Hungerford, K.G., wherein is introduced on a banner the arms *party per pale indented debruised by a chevron,* said to be for Heytesbury. Hugo de Meulan bore *barry pily gules & or.* (*See* "Antiq. of Heraldry," p. 198).

[5] The "Herald and Genealogist" (v, 508), contains a pedigree and notices of this Hampshire family, where four other coats are blazoned for the name. And there is a seal in Halstead's "Genealogies," *a hawk's lure on a bend,* with the legend :—Sigill. Hugonis de Broc. The same bearing is attributed to Lawrence de Broc in Charles' Roll.

[6] In vol. iv, of *Arch. Cant.*, p. 100, is stained glass in Warehorne church with the arms—On a chevron 3 *talbots* passant sable, for Morant. See p. 225 for pedigree and will.

P. 144. *Ermine a bend,* 49 Edw. III. Seal of John de Freningham. Legend :— S' Joh'is de Fernyngham.

Bend engrailed. Seal of Sir John Colpeper, 2 Ric. III. Legend :—S'illum .... annis Colepepar.

Lion rampant debruised by a chevron. Seal of Edmund Hardres, 22 Hen. VI. No legend.

Vol. iv, p. 214. *Chequy a lucie hauriant.* Legend :—Sigillum Folberti de Doure. [This Fobert de Douer married the daughter of Geoffry de Lucy, eventually heir to her brother.] *Circa* 1180. Another at p. 215.

P. 219. *Chequy.* Hamo de Gatton, *circa* 1186. Legend :—Sig. Hamonis de Gattun. Secretum :—*Chief chequy.*

[At the end of this volume the Visitation of Kent, 1619, is begun with the arms and quarterings engraved, and illustrative wills and extracts from Registers.]

Vol. v, p. 192. *Six lions rampant* ensigned with a banner inscribed with a cross. Seal of Sir Roger de Leyburne, *temp.* Hen. III. Legend :—Sigillum Rogeri de Leyburne.

P. 218. *Three Bars.* Sir Adam de Bendenges,[1] A.D. 1225. Legend :—Sigillum Ade de Betneggis.

P. 220. The aforesaid Seal of Leybourne, *circa* 1270.

P. 221. *Quarterly.* William de Say, *circa* 1264. Legend :—S. Wilhelmi de Seye. Same arms. Legend :—"Sigillum Secretum."

[The Visitation of Kent, 1619, is continued in this volume.]

Vol. vi, p. 86. *On a chevron, 3 leopard's faces.* Crest :—*On a chapeau a talbot,* A.D. 1373. The arms and crest are the same as on the poet's tomb. Legend :— Sigill' Johis Gower. There is a brass monument to Sir Robert Gower in Bradbourne Church.

P. 199. *A Dog* or *Wolf passant,* not on a shield. *Circa* 1180. Legend :— S' Warini de Wodburn.

P. 209. *Three buckles*[2] of different patterns, not on a shield. *Circa* 1200. Legend :—S. Roberti S'cti Johannis.

P. 210. *Chief ermine.* Seal of Wm. son of Walter de Hevre, *circa* 1200 No legend.

Vaire (ancient). Michael de Cantelu, *circa* 1200. Legend :—Sigill' .... Cantelu.

P. 221. *A cross moline* and *4 fleurs de lis* within the cross and 4 outside. Geoffry de Bailleul, *circa* 1200. Legend :—Sigill' Gaufredi de Bailuel.

P. 306. *Three Bars (v. t ante).* Peter de Bending, 1223. Legend :—Sigill. Petri de Bendengies.

P. 313. Another of P. de B., *circa* 1237.

[The Visitation of 1619 is continued in this volume.]

Vol. viii, p. 274. *Six lions rampant.* Sir Wm. de Detling, *circa* 1284. Legend.— Secretum de Detlinge.

P. 292. *Three leopards' faces.* Walter son of Amfrid de Dene, *circa* 1231. "Sigillum Secreti."

Vol. x. [Visitation of Kent continued, containing pedigree of Dering, only with a large shield of quarterings (apochryphal), with Wills and Registers.]

Vol. xiii. A charter of Robert de Chetwode of Padlesworth in Snodland, dated 1285, has a seal appended with the arms *quarterly 4 crosses* [? patée].[3] Legend :— S' Roberti de Chetwod. [See a pedigree of the family, with illustrative charters, in Howard's *Miscellanea,* second series, i, 77.]

Vol. xv. An article by the present writer, entitled, "Earl Kentish Armory' (pp. 1-30), is in this volume. It consists chiefly of Kentish names from the old Rolls of Arms, with remarks on the coats of Abelyn, Pluckley, Shelving, Haut, Elys, &c.

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[1] This was a Hampshire family. There is a pedigree of five descents in the "Herald and Genealogist" (v, 431). This seal is not in the Dictionaries, nor the name ; the only resembling name is Bendish, which has quite a different coat.

[2] In the Roll of Arms of the thirteenth century (*Archæologia,* vol. xxxix), No. 163 Walter de St. John bears *D'Azure trois fermaulx d'or.*

[3] This is the only seal in the above series which is not engraved.