



SEAL OF WILLAM COCKHERD.

By the liberality of Mr. Warren, ever anxious to enhance the interest of our "Proceedings," we are able to give a woodcut of a Bronze Seal found at Stanton in 1871. This matrix is so formed as to combine the seal and the *secretum*, or privy-seal, the faces being connected by a stem pierced with a quatrefoil. This form of matrix is unusual in England, but appears to be frequently found among Italian examples. (*Archæological Journal*, Vol. XIII., page 183.)

The legend appears to read S. WILLAM·COKHERD. In the "*Journal of the Archæological Association*" (Vol. for 1873), the name is printed Cokhefd. It is a personal Seal of the XIV. Century, a rebus, a favourite style of wit among mediævals, and much adopted by persons not entitled to bear armorial distinctions. There is in the British Museum an early Seal of one Galfridi de Newhus, the devise of which is his new house, a very ugly Norman building; another, Roberti de Pesenhull, has a bunch of peascods; and on one of the Lynn deeds there is the seal of P. Roncini, the device of which is a pack-horse: Chaucer speaking of the shipman of Lynne says, "he rode upon a *Roncie* as he couthe."

A personal Seal having a secretum is unusual; with armorial and monastic seals they are very common; the Rev. S. Blois Turner, F.S.A. (to whom the Society is indebted for all that is valuable in this notice), states that he cannot call to mind another instance. In the "*Journal of the Royal Archæological Institute*," Vol. XV., p. 352, a woodcut of a personal Seal with heraldry, and the counter-seal with a device, is given as an uncommon example of this use. This Seal is appended to a document of the XIII. Century, by which Peter de Lekeburne makes a grant of his wood called Lund; the Seal is of circular form and rude execution, probably produced by a matrix of lead; the counter-seal is of pointed oval form and better execution, with the Holy Lamb for a device, and the legend ECCE ANGN' D[EI]. The use of the pointed oval Seal has usually been limited to the personal Seal of ladies and ecclesiastics, but, according to the accomplished authors of the notice in the "*Archæological Journal*," without sufficient authority; they suggest, however, the possibility that Peter de Lekeburne may have borrowed as a secretum the Seal of William de Lincoln, clericus, by whom the grant was probably drawn up and written.

The reverse of the Stanton matrix may be a merchant's mark; but the device of a double triangle and cross, would rather indicate the secretum of an ecclesiastic. Mr. Blois Turner, in support of this view, mentions a Seal of a later date, with the device of St. Nicholas; this can be pushed out from a sort of scroll border (for it has no legend) and be used either with or without it; this would form a sort of secretum, and is probably the seal of an ecclesiastic, an inference which is strengthened by reference to a painted oval Seal attached to a deed belonging to Winchester College, which has the conceit of an ape riding upon an ass, holding an owl. The legend is, HER—IS NE LASS—APE—OWL AND ASS; with an outer legend—S. Robti Clerci, probably used in the same way. Mr. Fitch, one of the Secretaries of the Norfolk Archæological Society, has in his fine collection a circular brass matrix, with the same device

and first legend, which is supposed to have been a satire upon the ladies of "High degree," who were frequently represented on their Seals as riding on horseback, with a falcon on their wrists—a mark of rank and distinction.

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