

NOTES.

A 13TH CENTURY STEELYARD WEIGHT FROM BUNGAY.

By H. E. P. SPENCER.

The weight was found about thirty years ago by Mr. Frederick Brighton, who dug it from within a foot of the surface on the site of the old BELL Inn yard (the Inn has long since disappeared); just outside the walls of the Castle. The specimen has been presented to the Ipswich Museum by Dr. E. B. Cane.

Mr. G. Dru Drury, M.R.C.S., F.S.A., an authority on ancient steelyard weights, has examined the weight and has kindly supplied the following description of it.

The latten case, which is of the usual shape, is hollow having lost the lead filling, therefore the original weight is unknown. It has a dark green patina.

Height— $3\frac{1}{8}$ ins. Greatest diameter over one shield— $2\frac{3}{4}$ ins.
Circumference— $8\frac{1}{8}$ ins.

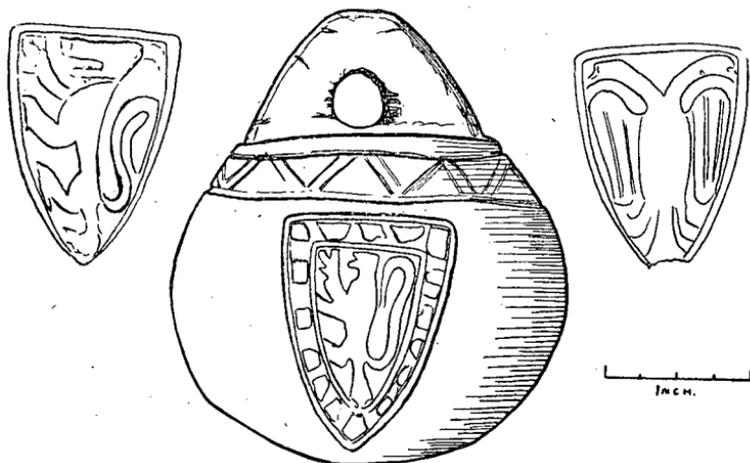
Round the shoulder is an incised decoration forming double triangles within parallel lines.

It is charged with three shields bearing in relief the following arms, all of which are attributed to Richard Plantagenet, younger son of King John, who was created Earl of Cornwall by his brother King Henry III, in 1225, and Count of Poitou probably at the same time. He was elected "King of the Romans," i.e. Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire in 1257.

First shield: bears a lion Rampant within a bordure Besantee for Richard as Earl of Cornwall.

Second shield: bears a lion Rampant for Richard as Count of Poitou.

Third shield: bears a double headed eagle displayed for Richard as King of the Romans.



The second and third coats appear on the majority of the Steelyard weights of this period (60 in number) which have so far been traced.

The first coat occurs on three other weights in addition to the Bungay example :

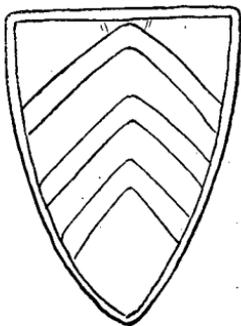
(a) One in the British Museum, from Clipstone, Northants.

(b) One in the Cambridge University Museum of Archæology and Ethnology, from the Huntingdon Road near Cambridge.

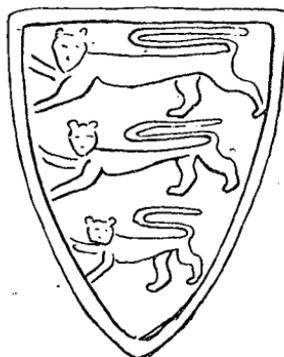
(c) One in the Royal Museum Canterbury, provenance not stated.

Three other weights are in the Museum collection at Ipswich :

1. An incomplete specimen, one side and the loop having been broken away, bearing only the arms of England, three lions Passant guardant ; probably dating prior to 1257, found in the Lowestoft district.



Arms of Clare
from
Castle Hedingham Weight.



Arms of England
from
Lowestoft Weight.

2. A medium sized specimen bearing the arms of Cornwall, of the King of the Romans, and of Clare ; found at Castle Hedingham. (Edmond, son of Richard of Cornwall, married Margaret de Clare in 1272 and succeeded to his father's lease of the Mint, etc.).

3. A small example bearing the arms of Richard of Cornwall twice, and of the King of the Romans ; found at Helmingham.

Crown rights in the regulation of trade are enforced to ensure fair and equal control of the transactions, and to enable taxes to be levied, hence the arms of the king (or as at present some recognised Royal symbol) or the arms of some person to whom the control was granted, appear on weights. King Henry III (1216-72) farmed or leased the Crown rights on the mint and on the assay of weights to his brother Richard, Earl of Cornwall. These rights were passed on to Richard's son Edmond, who held them until his death in 1300.