



OLD BRONZE SEAL.

Actual Size.

OLD BRONZE SEAL RECENTLY FOUND IN SUFFOLK.

Sometime last year an interesting specimen of archæological interest was brought to light in the shape of an old seal, an illustration of which is given above. The precise spot where it was found was not vouchsafed to me, owing to the reluctance of the discoverer to divulge it. Yet from certain hints dropped it seems to have been unearthed in the vicinity of Hepworth Churchyard, in North Suffolk. The exact spot is, however, immaterial.

The seal, which is of French character and in good preservation, is engraved on a bronze disc, one and an eighth inches in diameter, and nearly one-eighth of an inch thick, and is very deeply and boldly cut. At the back is a thin semicircular flange extending to the full extremity of the circular disc of the seal, pierced with a small hole for the attachment of a chain or fastening. Round the seal is an inscription, St. Guillame d'Salperwice. The crest consists of a panache or plume of four feathers springing from the wreath on the helmet. Flanking the helmet and flowing from beneath the wreath are lambrequins or mantlings of conventional character.

The arms are vair a Canton (or quarter) Ermine, and are the amorial bearings of Salperwick of Artois. In Woodward and Burnett's *Heraldry*, published 1892, the arms of Salperwick Marquis di Grigny, in Artois, are given as Countervair a quarter Ermine, probably the same family. The date of the seal is late 15th Century.

Sir Hercules Read, Keeper of the Mediæval antiquities in the British Museum, states that in one of the four Charters in the Museum, dated 1578, the name Salperswick occurs in connection with lands at Easton and Little Dunmow, Essex, and this is the nearest point in East Anglia to the spot where the seal was supposed to have been found, where the name occurs, as far as I have been able to discover.

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