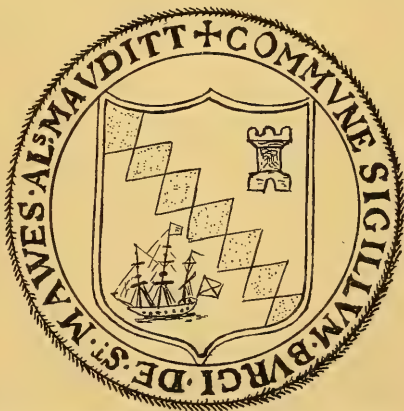


VIII.—*The Common Seals of Cornwall.*—By R. N. WORTH, *Corr. Mem.*

Read at the Spring Meeting, May 16, 1873.

THE discussion of the origin of seals carries us back to the very earliest days of civilisation; for seals have been used for purposes of authenticity and security over a period to be reckoned by thousands rather than by hundreds of years. We find mention in Genesis of the seal of Pharaoh and the signet of Judah; and seals and their impressions abound among the antiquities of Assyria and Egypt. Indeed, so far as is known, they originated in the first-named country. Even gem engraving, to which we owe some of the finest remains of the elder art, was practised at Nineveh. And the cartouches which contain the royal name in the hieroglyphs of Egypt appear clearly derivable from the form of the royal seal. References to seals literally abound in the pages of ancient and classical writers. Pliny, who held without proof that the use of seals began with usury, speaks of their universal employment in his time, throughout the civilized world, as the sole means of authenticating documents, indicates their use for purposes of security, and regretfully exclaims: "O the innocence of the old world! what a heavenly life led men in those days when as there was no use at all of seal and signet! But now we are fain to seal up our ambrie and hogsheads with our signets, for feare we be robbed and beguiled of our meat and drinke." He remarks likewise: "Verily we hold in these daies a seale to be the best assurance in contracts that may be."

Our own immediate predecessors—the Saxons—had, however, little to do with seals. Edward the Confessor had one, but the common practice was, instead of sealing, to make the sign of the cross. As legal formalities, seals were introduced into this country by the Normans; and, after the Conquest, they became what they still remain, component and necessary parts of nearly all legal documents. Originally they appertained only to corporate bodies



R.N.W.

and persons of distinction. The seals of individuals are called personal seals; those of corporations, ecclesiastical and secular, are the common seals with which this paper deals. Sometimes a seal had both obverse and reverse; and in order to prevent falsification, counter or privy seals were introduced, which were at first put upon the backs of the large seals, but afterwards frequently used alone. In addition to the common seals of the abbeys, convents, and priories, abbots and priors had their personal seals; and in municipal corporations it was no uncommon thing for mayors to have, not personal, but official seals, appertaining to the dignity and handed on with the office, and distinct from the seal of the general body. Official seals retain their legal importance almost intact; and, to be valid, public acts of bodies corporate must be authenticated by the common seal, to show that they are the deeds of the corporation and not of any individual or individuals. There never was the same precision about the use of private as of common seals, although their importance was great in days when few could write; and now a days anything in the shape of a seal will answer the requirements of legal technicality where the deed is personal only. In mediæval times antique gems were often adopted as personal seals. Sometimes a seal was borrowed; and there is a deed to which the seal of the Priory of St. Germans is attached, because, as the executor says, it was better known than his. There has been occasional laxity concerning official seals. Thus the rector of a parish in Worcester, who claimed testamentary jurisdiction in the 16th century, used a seal of the customs of Exeter, instead of going to the expense of having one cut; and the seal of the corporation of Maidenhead was evidently at one time that of a private individual.

From gems to ivory, all possible materials have been used for the matrices of seals. Seals of the 12th and 13th centuries were commonly in lead; then different kinds of bronze and brass were employed, and frequently silver. Mediæval seals are generally large and elaborate. Secular seals are commonly circular; those of ecclesiastical bodies and females chiefly oval or of the *vesica piscis*—pointed oval—form. Occasionally we meet with the heater-shaped, the quatrefoil, or the lozenge.

The substances used for sealing purposes are more numerous than the materials of the matrices. Clay, *terra sigillaris*, cement,

metal, paste, and bees-wax were all employed before what we term sealing-wax,—really not wax at all but lac—came into use. Clay was probably first in order; and the mud of the Nile and the Tigris is said to have been admirably adapted for the purpose. In the days of Cicero, sealing earth was used in Asia, wax in Europe. Yellow wax, as produced by the bees, gave place to coloured about the end of the 12th century, and the colours most in favour were green and red. The wax was simply mixed with a little turpentine; and, perishable as the material may seem, I have seen seals in it 800 years old, as perfect as if impressed only yesterday. Paste or wafer is of later origin; and sealing-wax was not introduced into Europe until early in the 16th century.

Seals are attached to the documents they authenticate in two ways—either they are affixed to the face, or they are suspended by a strip of parchment or a string of some kind. All the early French Kings, to Louis le Gros, affixed their seals. The seal of Edward the Confessor, on the contrary, was always appended; and seals were not affixed, in England, until the 14th century. The leaden seals attached to the Papal decrees—*bullæ*—whence these documents take their name of bulls, were always appended; and similar seals were used by the Knights Hospitallers. Seals now are generally affixed *en placard*. The Great Seal of England may be seen, however, attached to patents, in a tin box; and some other official seals are always appended.

Stamps, as distinguished from seals, are coming increasingly into use. Pliny records that the Asiatics used to smear their seals with ink, and stamp them on the paper or parchment. This method is followed by the Post Office, by various courts of law, and by some recent incorporations—Newquay Local Board to wit. The great rival of the seal proper is however the embossing press. When seals were only used on rare occasions it was of very little consequence whether wax was used or not; but now when our Town Councils and Local Boards issue sealed notices by the hundred, some more expeditious way is needed. Some skill, moreover, is required in taking the impression of a large seal in sealing-wax, especially one so large as that of the Bridge Trust at Barnstaple—the largest in the Two Counties, and as big as a small saucer. And where the embossing press has not superseded the seal, the impression is frequently taken on wafer covered with

paper or membrane; whilst in other cases woodcuts of a seal are attached to the documents by gum, and formally acknowledged by having the seal placed upon them. I have read somewhere that in early times royal seals used to be additionally authenticated by the inclosure, in the wax, of a hair from the King's beard, but that as time went on and charters multiplied the depilatory process became so rapid that it had to be stopped.

Great importance has always been attached to the safe custody of official seals. The mere delivery of the great seal of England constitutes the Lord Chancellor. The Chancellors of France, from which country we derive much of our practice, were bound to see that they did not attach the seal to royal orders which were inconsistent with law or justice. The seals of ecclesiastical establishments were generally kept by the heads of the fraternities. Those of the municipalities of Cornwall are chiefly in the custody of the Mayors. So far as I am aware, this is peculiar. In Devonshire and elsewhere the Town Clerks are the usual custodians.

In the ensuing pages will be found a description of the seal or seals of every existing municipality in the county, and of those of all the extinct corporations, whether ecclesiastical or secular, of which I have been able to find any trace. With one exception, the whole of the secular seals are described from actual inspection; the materials for the account of the conventual seals are necessarily nearly all second-hand. The legends of the seals described from personal observation are given in capitals or black letter and as nearly representing, in pointing and other peculiarities, the originals, as type will permit. The legends of the seals for which I am indebted to various authorities are distinguished by being in small capitals. The illustrations to this paper include drawings, as nearly as possible in *fac simile*, of the seals of such boroughs—having them—as are now extinct. Failing to find, when the work was first undertaken, any traces locally of seals connected with the disfranchised boroughs of Callington, Michell, and Newport, the indentures of return at the Public Record Office were inspected; and it was then found that these places never had any.

The dates of incorporation given are chiefly those of royal charters. Feudal lords exercised, and that somewhat freely, powers of enfranchisement in relation to the little communities

that sprung up upon their estates. Therefore to trace the origin of popular rights we should have to go back to very much earlier dates than most of these quoted. If we find a borough with a parliamentary representation hundreds of years before it received a royal charter, we are not to assume that it had then no powers of local self-government. Some such powers, in fact if not in name, were exercised in feudal times at courts-leet and courts-baron, although manorial courts and portreeves are now but shadows of their former selves. Many of the places to be mentioned are corporate no longer, although their glory has not so long departed as that of Craffhole, Stratton, and Boscastle, which once had a claim to be included in the list.

The majority of the seals of the religious houses are of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, seeing that they were suppressed in the sixteenth. Among the municipalities the oldest seal is clearly that of Bodmin. No other appears to be earlier than the 16th century; there are several of the 17th; and others of even later date. In some corporations new seals, generally on the pattern of the old ones, were provided at the time of passing the Municipal Reform Act. All the municipalities had seals; it is only some of the unincorporated parliamentary boroughs—and not all of them—that were without.


Of late years a number of Local Boards have been formed, the seals of which have no claim to be included in the general list; but the devices of some of them are worthy of note. Thus the Falmouth Local Board has the 15 bezants and the triple plume; that of Hayle a rude steamer, in allusion to the connection of the port with early steam navigation; Newquay, a pilchard; Phillack, the interlaced triangle with floriated Greek cross; Padstow, the device of the extinct corporation—a ship; St. Austell, a tricusped trefoil, bearing a crown, the triple plume, and the county arms; St. Columb, the 15 bezants surmounted by a bird.

The list is as follows:

BODMIN.

BOROUGH.—Bodmin was incorporated in the reign of Henry II; and has sent representatives to Parliament since 23 Ed. I. The present seal is ancient; but not so old as the earlier date. Vesica shaped, $1\frac{1}{16}$ in. \times $1\frac{5}{16}$. Device: a king seated. Legend: SIGILL. COMVNE BVRGENSIVM BODMINIE.

PRIORY.—Dr. Oliver describes [*“Monasticon Exoniensis”* p. 17; also figured] the seal of this establishment as displaying two elaborate canopies. The right niche occupied by the Virgin, with child on her right arm: underneath S. MARIE. The left niche by St. Petroc, his right hand raised in benediction, his left holding a crozier: underneath S. PETROC. In a square recess beneath, a shield charged with fish, which Oliver suggests are dolphins and allusive to the arms of Bishop Bartholomew, one of the founders, but which are really three salmon, the arms of the Priory. Legend, SIGILLU. COIE. PRIORATUS. SANCTE. MARIE. ET. SANCTI. PETROCI. DE BODMYN.

ST. LAURENCE DE PONTEBOY.—The matrix of the seal of this ancient leper-house, the remaining revenues of which are now enjoyed by the Royal Cornwall Infirmary at Truro, is in the possession of Mr. J. B. Collins, of Bodmin, to whom it was given by the late Mr. Bray, for many years town clerk of that borough. It is vesica-shaped, 2 in. \times $1\frac{1}{4}$ in., and represents St. Lawrence with gridiron under a gothic canopy; beneath is a leper kneeling. Legend S  SCI: LAVRENTII BODMONS DE: PENPOY.

CALLINGTON.

This is one of those parliamentary boroughs, which had neither corporation, arms, nor seal; although it still possesses a portreeve. It was represented from the 27th Elizabeth until the fatal year 1832.

CAMELFORD.

BOROUGH.—According to Browne Willis, this was one of the boroughs incorporated by Richard, King of the Romans. It was first authorized to send parliamentary representatives by Edward VI; but did not receive a municipal charter until 25 Charles I. Its arms—a camel passing a ford, all proper—are a canting allusion to its name, which however has nothing to do with camels, the word in Cornish simply signifying crooked: so that the Camel river is the crooked river. The seal, which is circular, $1\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter, bears the camel and ford. Legend * SIGILLVM* VILL: DE* CAMILLFORD.


COUNTY.

The county seal is oval. Device, a crown over a rose. Legend SIGILL COM CORNUB.

CRANTOCK.

COLLEGIATE CHURCH.—[“Monasticon” p. 54] Seal of dean, small. Device, a bishop mitred, in act of blessing; in his right hand a long cross. Legend: SIGILLVM. PPOSITI. KARANTOCI.

FALMOUTH.

BOROUGH.—The town was incorporated 1661, and the seal dates thence. Circular, $1\frac{3}{8}$ in. diam. Device: a double-headed eagle displayed (the arms of the Killigrews, lords of the manor, now represented by the Earl of Kimberley) charged with a rock on the body, and a castle on each wing. Legend:  FALMOVTH.

FOWEY.

BOROUGH.—This ancient seaport, which sent more ships to the siege of Calais than any other place in the kingdom, was first represented 13th Elizabeth, and thence until 1832. Its municipal incorporation did not however take place until the reign of James II; and its municipal privileges did not long survive the downfall of its parliamentary prestige. The seal is in the possession of the Rev. Dr. Treffry, of Place, whose family have been for many centuries lords of Fowey. Circular, $1\frac{3}{8}$ in. diam. Device, a shield bearing a three-masted man-of-war, on the sea, sailing. Legend: SIGILLVM. OPPIDI: DE: FOWY: ANNO: DOM: 1702. The date is put within the border, over the shield.

GRAMPOUND.

BOROUGH.—There is quite a choice of authorities on the question of the first enfranchisement of this once notable borough, for which in the 17th century John Hampden sat, and which in the 19th was specially disfranchised for its corruption. Camden* avers that it was enfranchised by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall; Browne Willis† assigns the first recognition of its liberties to John of Eltham; Lysons‡ states that it existed by prescription. All however agree that it was one of the parliamentary boroughs of Edward VI. Its municipal privileges have departed with its parliamentary, and its seal is now in the possession of Mr. Josiah

* “Britannia,” p. 18.

† “Notitia Parliamentaria,” vol. iii.

‡ “Cornwall,” p. 71.

Croggon. Circular, $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. diam. Device: a two-arched bridge over a river. On the bridge, the masonry of which is distinctly marked, an escutcheon with the Duchy arms, a lion rampant within a border bezanty. On the right the road over the bridge is shown; on the left bank of the river a tree. Legend: * SIGILLVM: MAIORIS. & BVRGENSIVM: BVRGE. DE GRANDPONT. ALS: PONSMVR. The bridge of course refers to the assumed derivation of the name of the town from Grand Pont. The introduction of the Duchy lion bears out both Willis's and Camden's statements, so far as they agree, that is, in attributing the enfranchisement to an Earl of Cornwall.*

HELSTON.

BOROUGH. — Helston has returned representatives to Parliament since the 23rd Ed. I. It was made a municipality by Elizabeth. The present seal, which is circular, $1\frac{9}{16}$ in. diameter, has for its device, St. Michael killing the dragon, on the battlements of a castle, or it may be, church (Helston church being dedicated to the archangel). Michael has on his arm a shield charged with three lions. Legend: THE SEAL OF THE BOROUGH OF HELLESTON. Lysons ["Cornwall" cxxxvi] figures an older seal with the same device, but with the legend [black letter]: SIGILLVM COMVNITATIS VILLE DE HELLESTONE BURGTH.

LAUNCESTON.

BOROUGH.—This ancient town, though not incorporated until 1555, has sent representatives to Parliament from 23rd Edward I. The present seal is circular, and contains simply the arms of the town, with no legend. In the latter respect the modern seal of Truro is the only one in Cornwall that resembles it. The arms are: *Gules*, a triple circular tower in pyramidal form *or*, the first battlements surmounted by cannon of the last. A border *azure*, charged with eight towers domed, *ar*. Crest in a ducal coronet *or*, a lion's head *gules*, between two ostrich feathers *argent*.† Browne Willis‡ terms the towers on the border, tents. There are imperfect impressions of older seals in the Museum of the Royal Insti-

* The MUR in Ponsmvr are conjoined.

† Berry's "Encyclopædia Heraldica."

‡ "Notitia" v. iii, p. 7.

tution. One shews a castle with central tower embattled, and lower ones on each side, domed. The legend is defaced but SIGILLVM CORNVB can be deciphered. There is another legend on each side of the castle in the field, apparently PRINCEPS CAROLAN. The other and still older one bore the triple castle without the inner legend; and the other letters are imperfect.


PRIORY.—Circular $1\frac{5}{8}$ diam. Device: a rude church with central tower. Legend: SIGILLV. ECCLE. SCI. STEPHANI. DE. LAN. This is figured by Oliver ["Monasticon," p. 23.] The impression attached to the surrender is perfect so far as the device goes, but the legend is defective.

ST. LEONARD LEPER HOUSE.—This leper house was removed from Launceston to Gillmartin ["Monasticon," p. 22]. The seal figured by Lysons ["Cornwall," p. cxxxv] is vesica shaped; Device, St. Leonard half-length under a Gothic Canopy. Legend: SIGILLUM HOSPITALE SCI LEONARDI: DE INTAQVVS (?).


LISKEARD.

BOROUGH.—This borough has been represented since Edward I. and apparently was chartered even earlier. Seal vesica-shaped, 2 in. \times $1\frac{3}{8}$ in.; Device: a fleur de lis; two birds upon the arms, two annulets over; below on each side a feather. Legend: [a rose] SIGILLUM. COMMVNE. BVRGI. DE. LISKEARD. This is a modern reproduction of an older seal which was produced at the Herald's visitation in 1573. The birds are there described as martlets; Browne Willis erroneously terms them Cornish choughs.

LOOE, EAST.

BOROUGH.—East Looe, in conjunction with Fowey, sent a shipowner to a council at Westminster in the reign of Edward I, but was not entrusted with the privileges of Parliamentary representation until the reign of Edward VI; or incorporated municipally until the 13th Elizabeth. It ceased to be represented in 1832, but retains its corporate privileges. Seal circular, 1 in. diameter. Device: ship with two men on board; on the side of ship three shields charged with 3 bendlets, the arms of the once famous family of Bodrugan. Legend  S': COMMVNETATIS: DE: LOO. [Figured Lysons "Cornwall," p. cxxxvi].

LOOE, WEST.

BOROUGH.—This borough rejoices in a multiplicity of names : Louborough, Portpigham, Portloo, Portuan, Westloo. First represented Edward VI, and incorporated by Elizabeth a few years earlier than East Looe ; disfranchised like it in 1832, but, unlike it, having suffered the charter rights to expire, West Looe is now a borough no longer, and its insignia are scattered. Its seal is one of the most interesting in Cornwall, for it represents an archer of Elizabethan days fully equipped, holding his bow in his right hand and his arrow in his left.* It is oval, $1\frac{1}{6}$ in. \times $1\frac{1}{2}$ in., and bears the legend  POR* TV* AN* OTHER* WYS* CALLED* WESTLO. The lettering is badly done ; the *w*'s being double *v*'s ; one of the *s*'s being reversed ; and the *h* and *e* in " other " being conjoined. The earliest very perfect Cornish seal attached to an indenture of return in the State Paper Office is one for Portpigham of the 17th century.


LOSTWITHIEL.

BOROUGH.—This was a parliamentary borough from a very early date, and continuously returned representatives from 4th Edward II until 1832. First incorporated in 1623, its charter was renewed in 1732, when the present principal seal was given by the Recorder, Richard Edgcumbe. This seal is circular $2\frac{3}{8}$ in. diam. ; Device : a castle standing on waves, therein two fishes swimming. The castle has central and side towers, each with three turrets, and all masoned. On each side is a thistle, and above, the date 1732. Legend : SIGILLVM BVRGI DE LOSTWITHIEL ET PENKNIGHT IN CORNVBIA. There is a smaller seal $\frac{1}{6}$ in. diam. with the same device, but with the fishes swimming to left instead of right. Legend : SIG : BVRGI DE LOSTWITHYELL.

Lysons figures [" Cornwall," p. cxxxvi.] an ancient seal, small, from a document of 3rd Henry IV. Legend : S. OFFICII DE MAOOR DE LESTIEL. A fragment of a larger seal than this is attached to an indenture of return, 17th century.

* Berry, "Encyclopædia Heraldica," actually calls the archer a man habited as an Indian.


MILLBROOK.

BOROUGH.—According to the old divisions Millbrook, near Mount Edgecumbe, was partly in Devon and partly in Cornwall. Browne Willis mentions it as once a borough, and Hals says that it sent members *temp.* Henry VIII, but was excused continuing on account of its poverty. There are no returns in the Public Record Office by which this may be tested; but I am indebted to Mr. Deeble Boger for putting me on the track of an evidence of former corporate life that cannot be gainsaid,—the corporate seal, the present holder of which styles himself the borough reeve. The seal is circular, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter; with a mill standing in a brook for a device. The brook runs through a woody country, and dogs are scattered among the trees. Legend:  * SIGILLVM * DE * MILBROOKIA* This is the first time that the existence of this seal has been put upon record.

MICHELL.

Michell, *alias* Modishole, represented from the reign of Edward VI until 1832, never had either corporation, arms, or seal!

MARAZION.

BOROUGH.—This little borough, the name of which has been the occasion of so much controversy, was incorporated by Elizabeth in 1595. It is said to have returned members. There are two seals with the same device, one of metal, and the other, of later date, of ivory. In other respects they are similar. Circular $1\frac{5}{16}$ in. diam. Device: a rude castle, with central and flanking towers. Legend:  SIGILL. MAIORIS. VILLE. ET. BOROV. DE. MARGHASION.


NEWPORT.

Newport by Launceston, as Michell, never had either corporation, arms, or seal; though it sent members from Ed. VI to 1832. This borough, like Launceston, is occasionally called Dunheved. Indeed if Carew ["Survey," p. 90] is to be followed, and the earliest indentures of return, it would seem to have really the better right to the name.

PADSTOW.

BOROUGH.—Padstow had a corporation *temp.* Elizabeth;* but nothing is known of the date at which it became extinct. No impression of the seal is extant; but a drawing thereof is attached to a deed in the possession of Mr. C. G. Prideaux Brune, of Place, and the device has been adopted by the Padstow Local Board. It is a three-masted ship of war upon the waves, sails furled, and anchor at prow.

PENRYN.

BOROUGH.—Willis, Borlase, and Lysons disagree as to when Penryn was incorporated or its representative character commenced. No doubt it is an old borough, and the incorporation by James I of which the latter speaks, by no means the earliest assignment of privileges. Seal circular, $1\frac{5}{16}$ in. diameter. Device: on shield "bust of man in profile, coupé at breast, vested over shoulder, wreathed about temples with laurel tied behind with two ribbons flotant."† Legend:  PENRYN. BURGUS. A smaller and more modern oval seal has the same device and legend. Carew gives Penryn as meaning "curled head," and possibly the device was intended to refer to this.

GLASNEY COLLEGE.—From the fragments attached to the surrender the seal of this body was probably vesica-shaped and 2 inches long, but the remains afford no clue either to device or legend.

PENZANCE.

BOROUGH.—This borough was incorporated in 1614. The seal is circular, $1\frac{1}{8}$ in. diameter. Device: the head of the Baptist in a charger. Upon a scroll under the head the words PENSANS ANNO DOMINI. Two figures of the date, 1614, are put on either side. Penzance has been interpreted to mean the holy headland; the head of the Baptist is clearly used as a canting device.

* Carew "Survey," p. 87, speaks of the charter as newly purchased.

† See Berry, "Encyclopædia Heraldica."

SALTASH.

BOROUGH.—The municipality of Saltash dates back to the days of Richard, king of the Romans, whose arms are upon the existing seal. Its parliamentary representation continued from Edward VI until 1832. The seal is circular, $1\frac{5}{8}$ diameter. Berry describes the borough arms as being azure, having in base water *proper*; in pale an escutcheon *or*, thereon a lion rampant *gules*, within a border *sable*, bezanty, ensigned with a prince's coronet of the third; on each side of the escutcheon an ostrich feather *ar*, labelled *or*. This is the device, although all the tinctures are not clearly shown. It is remarkable that the field of the duchy shield is generally given *argent*; it is shown however on a boss in Saltash Church *or*, as in the arms of the borough. Legend * SIGILLVM: SALTASCHE: IN: CORNWAILE. There was another seal bearing as a device a three-masted ship in full sail; but that has long been lost.

ST. BURIAN.

COLLEGIATE CHURCH.—Oliver states ["Monasticon," p. 7] that the last ungraceful seal of this Deanery was cut in 1717. It is oval in form, and the device a burlesque figure of Athelstan. Legend: SIGIL. PECVL. IVRISDIC. DEC. STÆ. BERIANÆ. 1717.

ST. GERMANS.


Like Callington and Michell, although entrusted with the electoral franchise (from the reign of Elizabeth until 1832), St. Germans had neither corporation nor arms, nor of its own a seal; the returning officer, as at the two other places named, being a portreeve. It was however customary to attach the private seal of the St. Germans family to the indentures of return, and I am indebted to the courtesy of Earl St. Germans for an inspection thereof. The seal is circular, $1\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter, and shews two ovals. The dexter one bears the arms of the family: *argent* a fesse *gules* between two double cottises wavy *azure*; the sinister oval—the monogram St. G. Above is the crest, an elephant's head *argent*, plain collared *gules*; beneath, a cherub; and on scroll, the St. Germans motto: PRÆCEDENTIBVS INSTA.

PRIORY.—Oliver ["Monasticon," p. 3] had seen but one impression of the seal of the priory, which represented the saint sitting. The only letters of the legend remaining were SCI.

ST. IVES.

BOROUGH.—The canting arms of St. Ives are “an ivy branch overspreading the whole field *vert* ;” and this forms the device on the seal, borne upon an escutcheon. The seal is circular, $1\frac{5}{8}$ in. diameter; and the legend * SIGILLVM. BVRGI: St. IVES. IN. COM: CORNVB: 1690. The borough was first represented in the reign of Mary, but incorporated by Charles I.


ST. MAWES.

The borough of St. Mawes was distinguished for having neither market, church, chapel, nor corporation. Its portreeve however was commonly dignified by the title of Mayor, and it had both arms and a seal. It sent members from the 5th of Elizabeth until 1832. The seal is circular, $2\frac{1}{8}$ in. diameter, and bears on an escutcheon in the field, the arms of the borough: *azure*, a bend lozengy *or*, between a tower in sinister chief *ar*, and a ship with three masts and sails furled in dexter base, of the second. Legend  COMMVNE. SIGILLVM. BURGI. DE. St. MAWES. ALs. MAVDITT.

ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT.

PRIORY.—The seal of Richard Auncell prior from 1388 to 1412 bore a device, St. Michael transfixing the dragon [“Monasticon,” p. 29]. It was discovered in Exeter about 30 years ago.

STANNARIES.


Carew [“Survey,” p. 17], says that the ancient seal of the tinners bore an axe and shovel in saltire; but his reference is the only trace of its existence. In 1842, however, a leaden bulla was found in a field at Lee Down, Bath, which turned out to be a seal of the tinners of Cornwall, certainly not of a later date than the earlier half of the 14th century. The impressions on both sides are alike. On a diapered ground are a man working with a pick, and another with a shovell. Between them appears a lion's head which has been said to have been introduced as typical of running water necessary to the stream works. I would suggest however that it rather refers to the arms—the lion rampant—at first of the earldom and then of the Duchy. Legend  S'. COMVNITATIS. STANGNATORVM. CORNVBIE. There is an electrotype of this highly interesting seal in the Museum of

the Royal Institution; which also contains an impression of the old seal of the Lord Warden of the Stannaries; and of a large seal of the customs of the Duchy of the 14th century. The seal of the Lord Warden resembles that at present in use. Circular, $1\frac{3}{16}$ in. diameter, device: a castle flanked by two towers, and with a curious fan-like embattled upper structure. In front of gate a lion couchant. Legend: SIGILL. DUCAT. CORNUB.

The customs seal has as its device the arms of "Henry Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall" quartering lions and fleur de lis. The matrix was purchased in 1824 by a brazier of Liskeard and was probably made in 1399 when Henry of Monmouth was created Prince of Wales ["Gent. Mag." 1825, pt. 2, p. 497.] The legend is *S. henrici principis Wall' duc cornub & comit cestr' de officio coketti ducatus cornubië.*

The tin coinage used to be performed by a hammer which bore on its face the arms of the Duchy—the well known lion rampant in a border bezanty.

TINTAGEL.

BOROUGH.—Tintagel *alias* Dundagil, *alias* Bossiney, *alias* Trevena, dated its privileges from Richard, King of the Romans, but was incorporated and enfranchised by Edward VI. It ceased to be represented 1832, and the corporation did not long survive. Its insignia are now scattered; and the seal is in the possession of Mrs. Symons of Bossiney. It is circular, $1\frac{5}{8}$ in. diam., device: a castle standing on the sea, with steps descending thereto from the main entrance. Two towers flank this entrance, and there is a larger one domed behind; all connected by an embattled circular wall. Legend:  SIGILLVM. MAIORIS. ET. BURGIVSIV' BVRGI. DE. TINTAOIEL.*

TREGONY.

BOROUGH.—This borough sent representatives twice in the reign of Edward I, but then intermitted, as Browne Willis has it, until Elizabeth; from which date it continued to exercise the electoral franchise until it found a place in schedule A of the Reform Act. It was incorporated by James I, but is also denuded of that vestige of its former importance—a corporation. The seal

* The O instead of a G in Tintagel is apparently an Engraver's blunder.

is said to be in the possession of Dr. Jewell of Mylor, but my enquiries have failed to ascertain whether that is so or not. As figured by Lysons ["Cornwall," cxxxvi] it is small, circular, bears as a device the arms of the borough, a pomegranate seeded, slipped, and leaved; and the legend: SIGIL. COM. BURGO. DE. TRIGONI.

TRURO.

BOROUGH.—Truro is an ancient borough, which, according to the Visitation of 1574, Harl. MSS 1079, was incorporated by Raynold Earl of Cornwall, base son to Henry I, formerly by Richard Lucy, als Lucam. Its first royal charter is said to have been given by Henry II, and it has returned members to Parliament ever since the 23rd Edward I. The present seal is circular, an inch in diameter and bears simply the arms of the borough—a three-masted ship of war on the waves, with a pennon of St. George flying from each mast and sail set on the main. In the water two fishes swimming to right one above the other—not as on the Lostwithiel seal, one in line with the other. The seal bears no legend, in this respect resembling that of Launceston; but an older and larger seal with the same device was inscribed SIGILLV COMMVNITATIS DE TRVRO.

CUSTOMS.—An old customs seal of Truro bears a crowned thistle with a feather on each side. Legend SIG TRVRO. MEM. DE. PORTU PLYMOVTH.

DOMINICAN CONVENT.—The matrix of the seal of the convent of Dominican friars was found in 1842 in the garden of the vicarage house of Sturry, near Canterbury; and is now in the Museum of the Royal Cornwall Institution. It is a pointed oval $1\frac{1}{16} + 1\frac{2}{16}$, and represents the Saviour in the act of teaching and blessing. Legend: * S' OVENT' FRATR̄V P'DICATOR' DE TRIVERV.

TYWARDREATH.

PRIORY.—Oliver ["Monasticon," p. 36] mentions four seals of St. Andrews Priory at Tywardreath. First: St. Andrew bare-headed, holding staff surmounted with plain cross, in right hand—book in left.—Legend: SIGILLVM: SCI: ANDREE. Second: St. Andrew erect, long saltire cross in right hand; book in left.

Legend; SIGILLVM. SANCTI. ANDREE. Third attached to deed 1294. St. Andrew suspended on his cross; star on right side, fleur de lis and crescent on left. A similar seal varies in the absence of the latter. Fourth, 1436, St. Andrew with his saltire under a rich canopy, beneath him a monk in attitude of prayer. Legend: SIGILLV: PRIORIS. ET. CONVENTVS: ECCLIE: SCI: ANDREE: DE: TYWARDREITH. [This one Oliver figures]. One of the coats of arms assigned to the priory—*Gules*, a cross saltire *or* between 4 fleurs de lys of the second, has been adopted as the seal of the Tywardreath Highway Board. Thomas Collins, the last prior of the Priory, used as his personal seal an intaglio of the Laocoön, to which considerable interest attaches, seeing that it restores that celebrated group in a different manner to that which has been followed.