

Third Series Vol. IX Part 1

No. 225

Spring 2013

ISSN 0010-003X

Price £12.00

# THE COAT OF ARMS

an heraldic journal published twice yearly by The Heraldry Society



# THE COAT OF ARMS

*The journal of the Heraldry Society*



Third series

Volume IX

**2013**

Part 1

*Number 225 in the original series started in 1952*

The Coat of Arms is published twice a year by The Heraldry Society, whose registered office is 53 Hitchin Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 6AQ. The Society was registered in England in 1956 as registered charity no. 241456.

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## ARTEFACTS OF INTEREST

*Reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the Treasure Act*

A further short selection of small finds of heraldic or related interest recently reported under the terms of the Treasure Act 1996 or the Portable Antiquities Scheme. All the objects were found by metal-detectorists; all have a unique PAS number. Objects submitted to H.M. Coroner as potential treasure have a T number prefixed by the year in which they were submitted.

### CORNWALL: ST BREWARD

PAS CORN-20C7F0. See **Figure 1a**.

Incomplete cast copper-alloy medieval harness pendant, lozenge-shaped in its surviving form, and retaining its suspension mount with hinge at one end and an integral cylindrical stud on the back of the opposite rounded end. The face of the pendant has a chevron with the remains of blue enamel on a green enamelled field; on the chevron are three recessed roundels, inlaid with the same green enamel as the field. The pendant would originally have been larger and perhaps lozenge-shaped in plan, but more likely shield-shaped like the example referenced below. The field of the shield is mainly missing so that it is unclear if there were other devices above and below the chevron. Length: 44.3 mm ; width: 21.7 mm ; thickness: 4 mm . Weight: 7.95 g. Found March 2013.

Cornish families using roundels on chevrons tend to have other charges in the field: cf. the Opie family of Bodmin and Penhargard in Helland, the closest location to the findspot (*Sable on a chevron between three garbs or three roundels azure*); the Bol(e)igh family of Lansallos near Fowey (*Argent on a chevron sable between three roundels gules three bezants*); and the Coswarths of Coswarth, Colan near Newquay (*Argent on a chevron between three falcons wings azure three [or five] bezants*): see W. H. Pascoe, *A Cornish Armory* (Padstow 1979), pp. 80, 32. B. A. Read, *History Beneath Our Feet* (Braunton 1988), p. 92 no. 566, illustrates a very similar shield-shaped pendant with 'on a chevron three roundels', found at Ringmore in Devon; this he refers to as an 'unrecorded variant of the relatively minor Cornwall family arms' and dates to the 14th century. In *Metal Artefacts of Antiquity: a catalogue of small finds from specific areas of the United Kingdom* (Langport 2001), p. 52 fig. 31 nos. 402-3, Read illustrates two similar suspension mounts with rounded ends, hemispherical sections and integral studs, again dated to the 14th century.

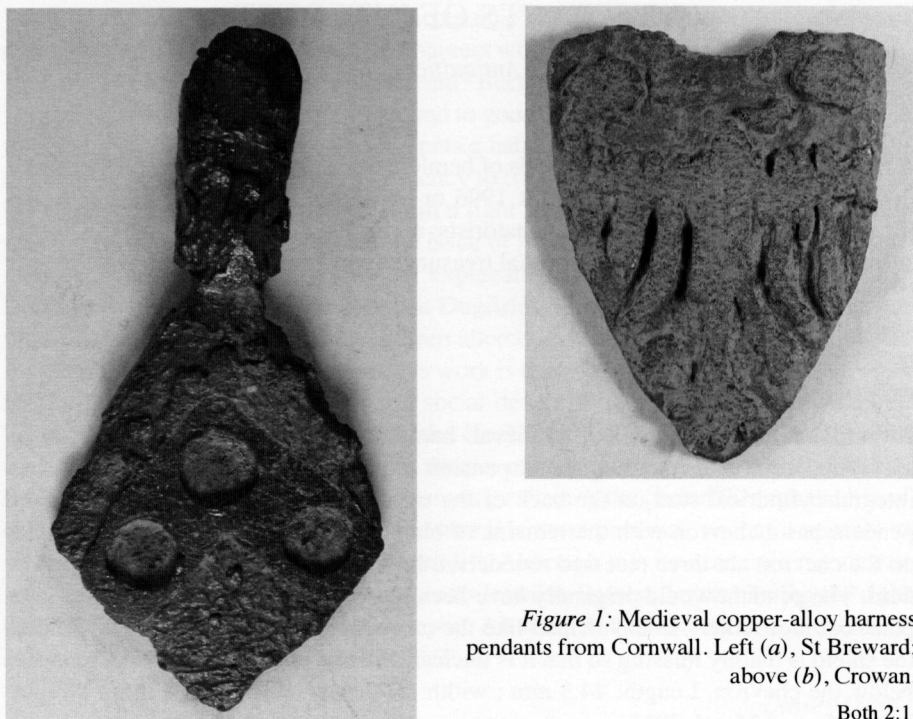
*Anna Tyacke*

### CORNWALL: CROWAN

PAS CORN-75A440. See **Figure 1b**.

Cast copper-alloy shield-shaped medieval harness pendant with double-headed eagle displayed in relief on the front face with traces of green enamel on the wing and tail feathers and red enamel on the legs. The eagle has two heads and outstretched wings with three vertical feathers on each and raised elbow joints on either side of the heads. The wings are attached to a central rectangular torso and the legs and claws extend obliquely from the bottom of the torso to the edge of the pendant. Between the legs

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*Figure 1:* Medieval copper-alloy harness pendants from Cornwall. Left (a), St Breward; above (b), Crowan.

Both 2:1.

is a single vertical stem fanning out into four tail feathers, just above the pointed terminal of the shield. The pendant is missing its suspension loop and an area of the top edge of the shield where the loop was attached, leaving a semi-circular recess. Length: 28.7 mm ; width: 22 mm ; thickness: 3 mm. Weight: 5.8 g. Found January 2013.

The pendant may show a version of the arms of the Godolphins who from the 15th century had their seat at Godolphin House, Breage, not far from the findspot; in most sources, however, the Godolphin arms are *Argent a double-headed eagle displayed between three fleurs-de-lys argent*. Here there is no trace of the fleurs-de-lys and the eagle appears to have been *vert armed gules*. The shield shape of the pendant is classified as Type I by J. B. Ward Perkins, *London Museum Medieval Catalogue* (London 1940), p. 118, fig. 38; for a similar double-headed eagle, dating to the 14th century, cf. *ibid.* plate XVIII, no. A12016.

*Anna Tyacke*

### DEVON: CLYST ST GEORGE

PAS DEV-C8FB67; 2012 T650. See **Figure 2**.

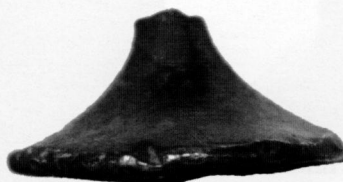
Post-medieval silver seal matrix with engraved oval die; part of the hexagonal conical handle is intact. The die is engraved with a coat of arms consisting of a shield containing a chevron between three animal heads erased. The shield is surrounded by scrollwork and other stylised decoration resembling swags or bunches of fruit. The handle would probably have included a suspension loop at the end, as with similar

## ARTEFACTS OF INTEREST



Figure 2: Post-medieval silver seal matrix from Clyst St George in Devon.

Scale 3:1.



seal matrices of this period. Length 15.5mm; width 14mm; overall height 6mm. Found September 2012.

The animals may be wolves, bears or possibly monstrous creatures; this uncertainty makes identification difficult.

*Danielle Wootton*

### WARWICKSHIRE: BILLESLEY

PAS WAW-5EF2D8; 2013 T313. See **Figures 3a and b**.

Post-medieval silver seal matrix of pyramid type with an oval base. The reverse of the matrix has a hexagonal sectioned stem which terminates with a collar, above which is a broken surface. Originally there would have been a loop; this is now missing. The shape of the break, which is recent, suggests the loop may have been in the form of a trefoil. The face of the matrix has a shield with a fess between in chief two roundels and in base a martlet; in centre chief there is also a crescent surmounted by a label, presumably as a mark of cadency. The fess is hatched or shaded with regularly spaced low-relief small sub-circular indentations. There is copper alloy corrosion adhered to the surface of the hexagonal stem and, to a lesser extent, the face, but otherwise the object is in fair condition. Width 8.87mm; length 11.51mm; thickness 8.87mm; weight 10.8g.

Arms like this (*Argent a fess between in chief two pellets and in base a martlet sable*) were granted on 20 Dec. 1593, to Robert Lee or Leigh, who bought Billesley Manor for £5,000 in 1600 (*Grantees of Arms*, p. 152; *VCH Warwicks* 3, p. 60). Lee, who was Lord Mayor of London and knighted in 1602, d. 1605 having settled the manor of Billesley on his second son Robert, who was himself subsequently knighted and d. 1638. As second son, this Sir Robert will have differenced his arms with a crescent; the small label on the crescent indicates that the seal was cut (or at any rate adjusted by recutting) during his lifetime for his eldest son Robert, i.e. the third Sir Robert Lee of Billesley, who d. 1659 aged 57: *Visitation of Warwickshire 1682-3*, ed. W. H. Rylands (Harl. Soc. pubns. 62, London 1911), p. 71. On his own death in 1659 the property passed first to his daughter and then to his brother Charles who sold Billesley in 1689 (*VCH Warwicks* *ibid.*). The seal is therefore relatively unusual in that we can confidently identify the person for whom it was cut, namely Sir Robert Lee (d. 1659) prior to his father's death in 1638.

*Angie Bolton and Clive Cheesman*

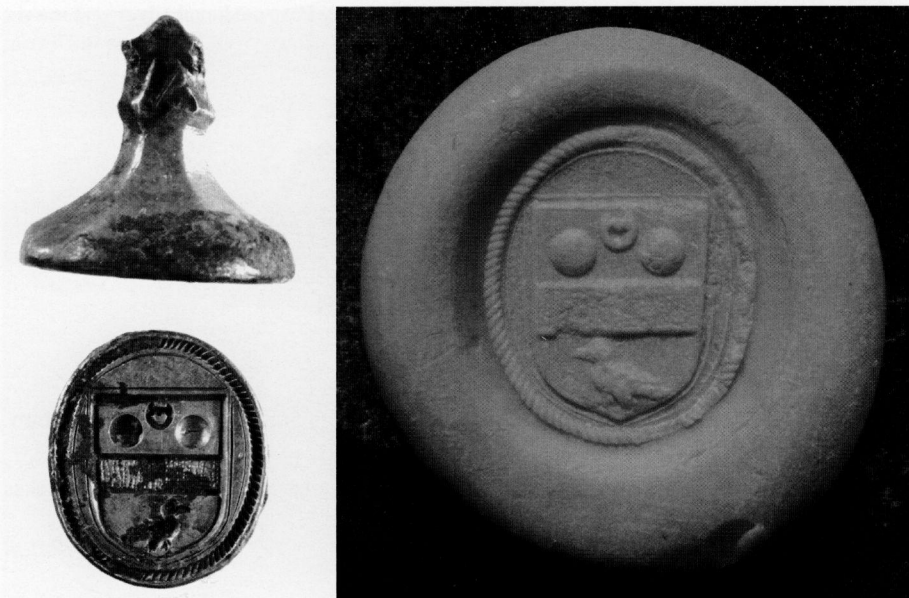
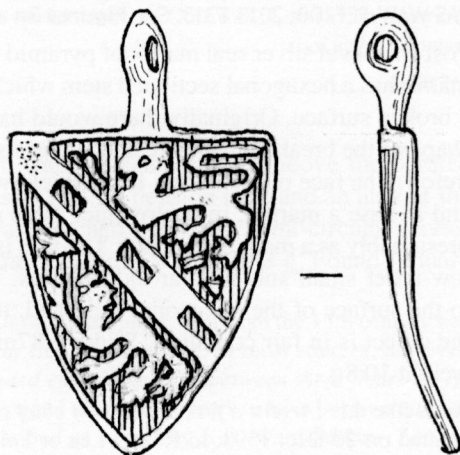


Figure 3 (above): Silver seal matrix from Billesley in Warwickshire. Left (a), profile and face (at 2:1); right (b), impression (c.2½:1).

Figure 4 (right): Harness pendant from Luckington in Wiltshire.

Drawn by Nick Griffiths. Scale 1½:1.



#### WILTSHIRE: LUCKINGTON

PAS WILT-865254. See **Figure 4**.

Cast copper-alloy medieval shield-shaped heraldic harness pendant with an integral loop protruding from the centre of the upper edge. The loop is set perpendicular to the face of the pendant, on a short, rectangular sectioned neck. The front of the pendant bears two lions passant and a bend gobony or perhaps charged with three billets. The reverse is flat and undecorated, the pendant has been bent downwards slightly. Length 39.10mm, width 24.3mm. Weight 8.62 grams. Found January 2013.

Arms such as this (*Gules two lions passant over all a bendlet gobony argent and azure*) are ascribed to William de Felton in various 14th-century sources (*DBA* 1, p. 170). But other ascriptions and interpretations of the design are possible.

*Richard Henry*