

R. Comes Cest Constablor. dapit vmb; baptoz suis & houz; ramies frances
anglis. & Valensib; sat. Sciatz me de disse & concessisse illana siluestri
meo horum missis storetonam & pudican i feudo ibi redacte. fabr. & suus heret
p suo servicio scilicet p dimidio militare. quolo & pincipio qd sup dictas villas
habeat & reueat cum annis adiacentibus; i bosco & i piano & iq; libe & bonafruct
quiete. Et R. de Roimara. R. de pte Ric de hall. R. de constablor. Qu.
Mo nro. Rob guesac. Rob. de rye. Dejles. Venatore. Willo meschind & ro
maja. Gaus despetator. Beffgo. falconario. Hugo de uidun. Spilernario camayro
Ric piana. philippo camayro. da de phefes hugo fit angebni. Rob fit.
Walter. R. pinceyna. Iohes elecios q bac carta fec ad cestum pcepto comitis

GRANT OF STORETON AND PUDDINGTON (*circa 1129-1139*) TO ALAN
SILVESTER, BY RANULF II, EARL OF CHESTER

THE CHARTER AND HORN OF THE MASTER-
FORESTER OF WIRRAL.

By R. Stewart-Brown, M.A., F.S.A., F.S.Gen.

Read 12 December 1935.

THE charter, of which a reproduction is given, is the original grant, made almost exactly eight hundred years ago, by Ranulf II ("de Gernon"), the fourth Norman earl of Chester, to Alan Sylvester, the master-forester of Wirral, of the townships of Storeton and Puddington in Wirral. The grantee was an ancestor, in the female line, of the later foresters, the Storetons, the Bamvilles and the Stanleys of Storeton and Hooton, and also of the earls of Derby and Cromer.

The charter has been known, in part, from "old copies," and also from a full, if slightly differing, enrolment made upon the Cheshire Forest Roll of 1347. It had been seen and copied in 1580 by the heralds when visiting Sir Roland Stanley of Hooton, and in 1922 I printed a translation of it from the College of Arms MS. I.D. 14 (*Cheshire Sheaf*, III, vol. 19, p. 25). In 1924 our President, Mr. W. F. Irvine, printed it in Latin and English (*Cheshire Sheaf*, III, vol. 21, p. 91), together with some notes, from a transcript made by the late John Brownbill of the forest enrolment. There would therefore have been no need to print it again if it had not been that the original charter, with the earl's seal attached, was acquired in 1933 by the John Rylands Library, Manchester, in an important collection¹ of nearly seven

¹ See the *Hand-List*, by Dr. M. Tyson, published in the *Bulletin* of this Library, vol. 18, pp. 16 and 392, a revised issue of which was subsequently published in *Hand-List of Charters*, No. II, 1935. For some notes on this collection, see *Cheshire Sheaf*, 1934-5, Nos. 6473, 6490, etc. This charter was printed as No. 1807 of the *Hand-List* in a text which can be slightly improved.

hundred deeds and documents relating to Cheshire and other properties once belonging to the Stanley family.

The charter is an early and interesting one. It is 132 mm. in length and 64 mm. in depth.

A transcript is as follows :

R(annulfus)¹ comes Cestrie constabuloni 7 dapifero 7 omnibus baronibus suis 7 hominibus 7 amicis Francis 7 Anglis 7 Walensibus salutem. Sciatis me dedisse 7 concessisse Alano Siluestri meo homini 7 ministro Stortunam 7 Pudican in feudo 7 hereditate sibi 7 suis heredibus pro suo seruicio scilicet pro dimidio milite. 7 uolo 7 precipio quod supradictas villas habeat 7 teneat cum omnibus adiacentibus in bosco 7 in plano 7 ubique² libere 7 honorifice 7 quiete. T(estibus) Willelmo de Romara. Willelmo de Perci. Ricardo de Haia. Willelmo constabulone. W. Monaco. Roberto Greuesac. Roberto de Treueres. Serlone Venatore. Willelmo Meschin de Romara. Gaufrido dispensatore. Beringero falcunario. Rogero de Uerdun. Spilemanno camerario. Ricardo pincerna. Philippo camerario. Adam de Praheres. Hugone filio Anschetil. Roberto filio Walteri. Willelmo pincerna. Johanne clerico qui hanc cartam fecit ad Cestriam precepto comitis.

[Four endorsements]. [1] Stortū [2] Without date. Randall Earle of Chester gaue to Allen Siluester his man & minister Stourton and Puditon in fee for his seruice viz. halfe a knight's fee. [3] 1788. [4] Ry[lands] Ch[arter] 1807.

For a translation, I have followed Mr. Brownbill's version, with slight alterations to meet the text of the original as against the enrolled copy :

Rannulf Earl of Chester to his constable and steward, and all his barons and men and friends, French and English and Welsh, greeting. Be it known that I have given and granted to Alan Silvester, my man and minister, Stortun and Pudican, in fee and heredity to him and his heirs, for his service, to wit for half a knight['s fee] and I will and decree that he have and hold the said townships with all appurtenances, in wood and in the open and everywhere, freely and honourably and quietly. Witnesses : William de Romara, William de Percy, Richard de Hay, William

¹ The extended form and the spelling are taken from the seal.

² Dr. Tyson reads *utrique*, but this seems an error.

the constable, W. the monk, Robert Grevesac, Robert de Treveres, Serle the hunter, William Meschin de Romara, Geoffrey the dispenser, Beringer the falconer, Roger de Verdun, Spileman the chamberlain, Richard the butler, Philip the chamberlain, Adam de Praers, Hugh son of Anschetil, Robert fitz Walter, William the butler, John the clerk who made this charter at Chester by command of the Earl.

Among points to be noticed are, the use, in two places, of the uncommon word *constabulo*, constable, instead of the usual *constabularius*¹; the absence of the *justicia* or *justiciarius* as one of the persons to whom the charter is addressed²; the spelling “Pudican”³; the presence, among the twenty witnesses, of numerous members of the earl’s household and official staff, including, besides the constable, a dispenser, two butlers, two chamberlains, a falconer and a hunter; and the final clause, which gives us the name of the member of the earl’s chancery or secretariat who actually drew up the document.⁴ The seal is dealt with below.

Of the grantor, one of the most noted earls of Chester, it is unnecessary to write. The grantee, Alan Silvester, sometimes called Savage (*Salvagius*), both of which names may relate to his forest office, was, probably about the date of this charter, created hereditary master-forester of the earl’s forest of Wirral. As the earl refers to him in the document as his “man and minister” (or thegn), doubtless Silvester held some position already, perhaps this forest office for life or other term of appointment. How long before this date Wirral had been made a forest is unknown, but perhaps for a good many years. After being under forest law for more than two and a quarter centuries, Wirral was disafforested in 1376.⁵

¹ *Constabulo* is not in the classical dictionaries or in the new *Medieval Latin Word-List*.

² See below, p. 102.

³ See below, p. 104.

⁴ Tait, *Chartulary of Chester Abbey* (Cheth. Soc.), p. xlvi.

⁵ See my paper in *Trans. Hist. Soc. Lancs. & Chesh.*, vol. 59, p. 165, and also vol. 70, p. 139.

It will be seen that the charter took the form of a simple grant of the two townships and did not refer in terms to the bailiwick of the forest, but there is little doubt that the gift was intended as an endowment of lands for the master-forester and his descendants. The service called for by the earl from the holders of Storeton and Puddington was defined in the charter as the military duty imposed upon a tenant holding half a knight's fee. This, in Cheshire, was the attendance in the earl's army in time of war with Wales, of one man or serjeant, mounted upon a lightly-equipped horse. The service due from a full fee was a knight upon a fully-equipped horse or two serjeants mounted as above. We are told that if the forester himself came to serve in the earl's wars he was temporarily discharged from his forest duties.¹

The charter is without date, and hitherto this has only been guessed ; but it can be very closely arrived at by an examination of some of the witnesses' names.² The earl himself ruled from 1129 to 1153, so the charter must fall within those years. The ninth witness, William "Meschin" (young, junior, cadet) de Romara, was the son of William de Romara the first witness, and died, married and leaving issue, in 1151.³ William the constable (of Chester), the fourth witness, was almost certainly the second constable of that name who died before 1149, and not his father William fitz Nigel, who died about 1130.⁴ The chief reason for this view is that William "Meschin" de Romara would have been too young in 1130 to have been a witness to the charter. William de Romara himself was the elder half-brother of this earl of Chester, being a son of the Countess Lucy by her first

¹ Inquest of Service, 1288, pr. by me in *Cal. Chester County Court Rolls* (Cheth. Soc.), 109 and xlili.

² As pointed out by Mr. Irvine, nine or ten of the same witnesses attested another charter of this earl. (*Farrer, Honors and Knights' Fees*, ii. 53, taken from 35 *Rep. Dep. Keeper*, App. I, p. 7.) Beringer, however, did not do so.

³ *The Complete Peerage*, ed. Gibbs, *sub Lincoln*, vol. vii, 670.

⁴ *V. C. H. Lancs.*, i, 298.

husband Roger fitz Gerold. (The earl was Lucy's son by earl Ranulf I, "le Meschin.") William de Romara is best known as earl of Lincoln, so created about 1141. In several charters after that date he is found using this title and it is reasonable to infer that if he had held it at the date of this charter, he would have been so described by the clerk who drew it up, especially as it was a grant by his half-brother and ally, the earl of Chester. It was largely due to their joint objections to the title of earl of Lincoln having been conferred by King Stephen about 1139 upon William d'Aubigny that William de Romara subsequently obtained it for himself.¹

Thus the lower date limit for this charter may be reduced to 1141, but there is a further point to be noticed. William de Romara was created earl of Cambridge at least by the end of 1139, being so named, with the earl of Chester, among the witnesses to a charter, itself dated 1139, to the nunnery of Haverholme.² As this title of earl of Cambridge is also not given to him in the charter, it may safely be assumed that he did not hold it. So the date of the charter may confidently be placed in the ten years between 1129 and 1139, and probably nearer the latter year than the former. If William the constable was the one who died in 1130, the date of the charter will be 1129-30 but this exact date is, for reasons given above, probably too early. An approximate date is thus also obtained by which the afforestation of Wirral had certainly occurred. As has been observed above, the actual date for this is unknown. Nothing definite on this point can be deduced from the fact of appointment of a hereditary master-forester. Such serjeanties were a feature of twelfth-century administration, and the office probably existed before it was feudalised. We know from Domes-

¹ *The Complete Peerage*, vii, 668.

² *Mon. Angl.*, vi, 949, and Round, *Feudal England*, 185-7. Professor Stenton drew my attention to this point.

day Book that the first Norman earl of Chester had created, at any rate by 1086, the nuclei of the forests of Macclesfield and Mara and Mondrem (Delamere) and one in parts of what is modern Flintshire, but forest lands in Wirral are not, I think, recorded in the Survey, and the afforestation there must have occurred somewhat later and approximately in the first quarter of the twelfth century.

Something may be said of two of the other witnesses to the charter. William de Percy was one of the earl's family circle. He was the last of the original Norman line of this great family and married Adeliz "de Tunbridge," sister of Richard fitz Gilbert de Clare (ancestor of the earls of Hertford), who himself married Adeliz, sister of the earl of Chester who granted this charter. Spileman the chamberlain occurs elsewhere as "Spilem" the chamberlain,¹ and as "Spik" the chamberlain,² and his surname was probably derived from the *spigurnellus*, the official, an under-chamberlain, who attended to the practical work of sealing documents with wax.³

The absence from the high officers to whom this charter was addressed, and also from the lengthy list of official witnesses, of the justice of Chester is remarkable, and perhaps of considerable historical importance. The first justice of Chester who is on record is Adam *justicia Comitis* who attests, as sixth witness only, a private charter to Chester Abbey, dated by Professor Tait c. 1130–50.⁴ No other named justice seems to occur until towards the end of the twelfth century,⁵ but Ranulf II, the earl of this Wirral charter, mentions *justicia mea Cestrie* in a charter of 1141–53,⁶ and his successor earl

¹ Tait, *Chart. of Chester Abbey*, xlvi.

² *Cal. Charter Rolls*, ii, 316.

³ *Cheshire Sheaf*, III, vol. 17, p. 83; vol. 21, p. 92; vol. 22, p. 5. Mr. R. W. Hunt draws attention to some early instances of this name mentioned in Napier and Stevenson, *Crawford Charters*, 132.

⁴ *Chartulary of Chester Abbey*, No. 351; see also pp. xliv and 235.

⁵ *Ibid.*, iv.

⁶ *Ibid.*, No. 12, and p. xlvi.

Hugh (1153-81) addresses a charter to Shrewsbury Abbey to *justicia sua* as fourth of the parties named,¹ while unnamed justices are frequently mentioned in Cheshire charters of the last quarter of the twelfth century. As Professor Tait has observed, the justice was the chief officer of the palatinate in the thirteenth century, his name then standing first among the witnesses to many comital charters, but it is doubtful whether he occupied so important a position in the twelfth century. I know of no evidence of the existence of the office before the time of the Adam mentioned above. The significance of the absence of this officer in the charter under examination lies in its date, which probably just preceded the date of the one mentioning Adam. This makes it possible that the independent justiciary of Cheshire, one of the characteristic privileges of a palatinate, may have been first obtained by earl Ranulf II shortly after the date of this Storeton charter. If this is true, it clearly has an important bearing upon the date when the earls of Chester acquired *jura regalia*, and Cheshire the status of a county palatine. It has generally been thought that these privileges dated from the creation of the first Norman earl in 1071. Sir George Sitwell opposed this view in his work on *The Barons of Pulford*, and, more recently, Professor Lapsley thought the palatinate was not created until the thirteenth century.² The evidence as known to me rather points to the twelfth century for the independent justiciary, at any rate,³ but the matter calls for further careful investigation.

Of the two townships included in the charter, the descent of Storeton in the family of the master-forester is

¹ *Cal. Charter Rolls*, v. 50.

² "The Court Record and Roll of the County in the Thirteenth Century," *Law Quarterly Review*, April, 1935, p. 319.

³ See *Calendar of Chester County Court Rolls* (Cheth. Soc.), p. xix, and also a note by me in the *Cheshire Sheaf*, 1935, under the title, "The County Palatine of Chester."

clearly traced by Ormerod down to its disposal by Sir William Stanley, Bt., about 1848, to Thomas Brocklebank, afterwards a baronet, a Liverpool shipowner, by whose successor this township was sold about 1912 to the late Viscount Leverhulme. But there might have been some hesitation in identifying the "Pudican" of the charter (though probably a slip for Puditan) with Puddington, as the latter was, apparently continuously, held by the family of Massey from Domesday Book down to the eighteenth century. But there are the facts that Puddington was also coupled with Storeton as the inheritance of Annabel, granddaughter of Alan Silvester, in the charter of earl Hugh Cyfelioc granting her in marriage to Alexander his son's tutor about 1170-81,¹ and again in the forester's plea of 1361 mentioned above, and further that in two inquisitions, one of the time of Henry VI and another of Henry VII, the Masseys were stated to hold Puddington from Sir William Stanley as of his manor of Storeton.² The overlordship of the master-forester is thus attested, but can only be explained by assuming that the grant of Puddington to Alan Silvester arbitrarily over-rode the earlier lordship of the Masseys, who may perhaps have been compensated in some way.³

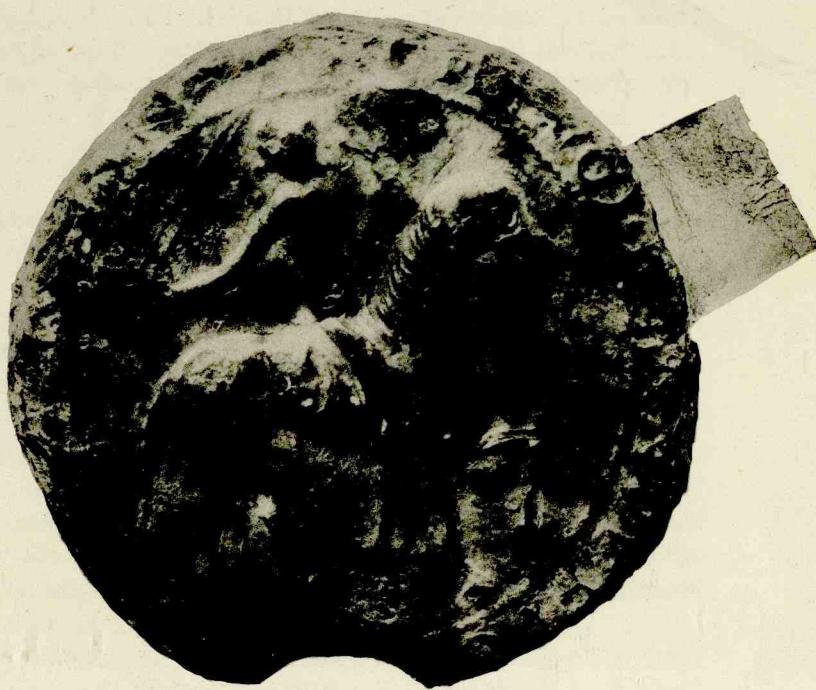
THE SEAL.

The seal attached to this charter is the great seal of Ranulf "de Gernon." It is of yellow wax, with a diameter of 78 mm., and is attached to the charter by a strip of the vellum in which the seal is embedded. The seal has a small piece of the edge broken, but otherwise is intact.

¹ Ormerod, ed. Helsby, ii, 446.

² *Ibid.*, ii, 558, 560. Mr. Hugh Irvine drew my attention to the mention in Domesday Book of "Putecain" which has been tentatively identified as Bychton, near Mostyn, in Flintshire (Tait, *Domesday Survey of Cheshire*, 237). Beyond the curious resemblance of the names, there seems nothing to associate Putecain with this charter.

³ Cf. Tait, *Chart. of Chester Abbey*, 280-1.



SEAL OF RANULF II, EARL OF CHESTER (*Rylands Charter* 1807)



It shows an equestrian figure, facing to the right, apparently full face, and bearing a sword held at an acute angle in the right hand and a shield on the left arm. One of the horse's fore-feet is raised and flexed. The legend is only partly legible but appears to read :

[+SIG]ILLVO·RANNVLFI·C[OOITIS·CEST]RIENSIS·

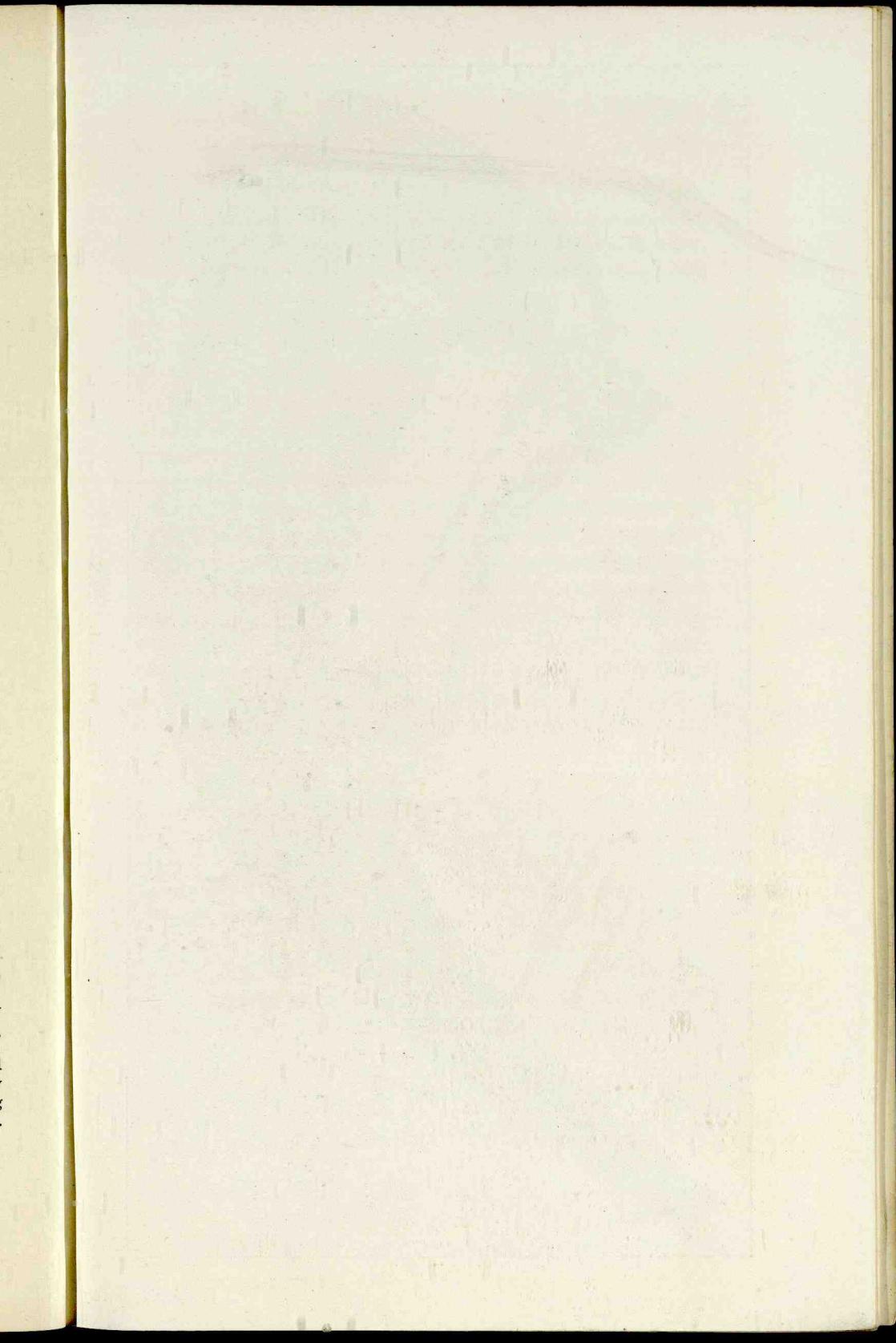
There is nothing on the reverse. The form of the letter "M" is of interest. In Mr. H. S. Kingsford's "Epigraphy of Medieval English Seals" (*Archæologia*, lxxix (1929), 157, 170), the forms given of this letter are uniformly Roman until 1186, when a form of "M" with both sides closed occurs. The peculiar form in this seal, like an "O" with a curved stroke on the right, is not listed by Mr. Kingsford until 1198, but was evidently in use earlier, as it occurs in this Stanley charter which I have shown can be dated about sixty years earlier than 1198. No example of this seal appears to be among the collections in the British Museum, the Public Record Office or the Society of Antiquaries.

About 1774 a lead matrix of a seal, found in the ruins at Bury St. Edmunds, was figured in an article by Edward King in *Archæologia*, iv (1775), 119, and by him attributed, on very slender grounds unconnected with the seal itself, to earl Ranulf "de Gernon." In this view he was copied, and this seal reproduced, by Ormerod, *History of Cheshire*, i, 21, 26n., the *V.C.H.Lancashire*, i, 292, and Birch, *Seals* (1907), plate xxii, no. 3. But this Bury seal is entirely different from that on the Stanley charter. The horse has no raised leg, the angle of the sword is different, the legend is entirely in Roman letters and the earl's name is spelt with one "N" only, besides other variations. If this Bury matrix is genuine (it is of lead, not silver), I believe it is the seal of earl Ranulf le Meschin, the father of "de Gernon." In an article by Planché on "The Seals of the Earls of Chester" in the *Journal Brit.*

Arch. Assoc., v (1850), p. 240, he refers to the Bury seal as that of Ranulf "de Gernon," but figures (p. 241) as the seal of that earl an entirely different one, taken, he states, from a drawing by Randle Holme.¹ This engraving more nearly resembles the seal on the Stanley charter in that the horse has a flexed fore-leg, and in the angle of the sword, and may be the same. But it is both fragmentary and crude. With this drawing and seemingly attached, is figured a counter-seal which Planché (p. 237) says "apparently contained a gem on which was engraved two naked combatants or gladiators. It is given the lettering COM·SIGILLVM·COM·DE CESTRE, perhaps showing that Holme or Planché had misread it.² In the *Catalogue of Seals in the British Museum*, vol. 2 (1892), no. 5804 is a cast of a seal attributed to Ranulf le Meschin, apparently this Holme one, from another source. Birch, the compiler of the *Catalogue*, here strangely refers to the drawing in Planché's article as showing the obverse only, not the counter-seal, and states that the seal was wrongly attributed there to "de Gernon." If this refers to the Bury seal, I agree, but if to the Holme sketch, I do not. Under no. 5807, a seal of Hugh the fifth earl, Birch mentions a counter-seal with two athletes, bearing the lettering + CONTRA SI[GILLVM DO]MINI CESTRIE and states, with a reference to Planché's article, that "the gem in this was used (according to R. Holme) by de Gernon but with a different legend.—Holme, however, was mistaken in attributing the seal to R. de Gernons." In this *Catalogue*, nos. 5805–6 are casts of the Bury seal, which the *Catalogue* attributes to "de Gernons," whereas it is probably his father's. A good deal of confusion has thus arisen, due, as I think,

¹ Probably this is the "very rude drawing" in Harl. MS. 2071, f.7, noted in Ormerod's "Additions and Corrections" at p. 907 of vol. iii, Helsby edition. For the charter of Ranulf II to which this seal belonged, according to Holme, see Tait, *Chartulary of Chester Abbey*, 68–9 and *Addenda* (xvii).

² But see the references in the footnote above.





THE WIRRAL HORN

to the hasty attribution of the Bury seal by King to the wrong earl, and the British Museum *Catalogue* adds to the confusion. But it is at any rate clear that the seal on the Stanley charter is a specimen, and perhaps the only extant specimen, of the seal of Ranulf "de Gernon."

THE WIRRAL HORN.

The creation of the hereditary master-forestership of Wirral was probably effected, not by a deed, but by the symbolical delivery by the earl to Alan Sylvester of a forester's horn as his badge and title of office. When in 25 Edward III (1361) the forest rights of his descendant, William de Stanley, were challenged, Stanley was asked by what warrant he claimed the bailiwick of this forest. He produced no charter but his reply was that a certain Ranulf, once earl of Chester, gave Storeton and Puddington to a certain Alan Sylvester and his heirs for ever, as well as the *balliva forestæ de Wyrhale*, and the liberties and profits belonging to that office, *cum quodam cornu nomine tituli ballivæ predictæ*.¹ Such a "charter horn" has long been preserved with great care by the Stanley family and is now in the possession of the second earl of Cromer who is one of the representatives in the female line of the Stanleys of Storeton and Hooton.² Assuming, as there seems no reasonable grounds to doubt,³ that it is the original master-forester's horn, we have the remarkable fact that both this horn and the original forester's

¹ *Quo Warranto* plea, Ormerod, ii, 355. By a slip the earl is called *Ranulphus primus* here.

² On the death, without issue, in 1893 of Sir John Massey (Stanley) Errington, 12th and last baronet, the representation of the family fell to the two surviving daughters of the 11th baronet (who died in 1875). Of these, Ethel, the elder, married (Sir) Evelyn Baring, created earl of Cromer (d. 1917), and Venetia married Viscount Pollington, afterwards earl of Mexborough.

³ About 1907, Mr. Broome of Brimstage, near Storeton, claimed that he had bought the Wirral horn at a sale of effects of a member of the Glegg family. As each of the numerous under-foresters will have had a horn, it is possible that one of these has survived.

charter of endowment are still in existence, though not now in the same ownership.

Ormerod, in his original edition of his *History of Cheshire* (1819) gave a drawing of the "Wirral horn," then in the possession of Sir Thomas Stanley-Massey-Stanley, Bt., of Hooton. He described it as

"slightly curved and tipped with brass at the smaller end; the colour varies from yellow to light brown and is spotted in shades of blue and black. It is nine inches and a half in circumference at the broad end, seven inches in the middle and two and a quarter at the brass tip. The extreme length is sixteen inches and three-quarters and the length across the curve thirteen and three-quarters."

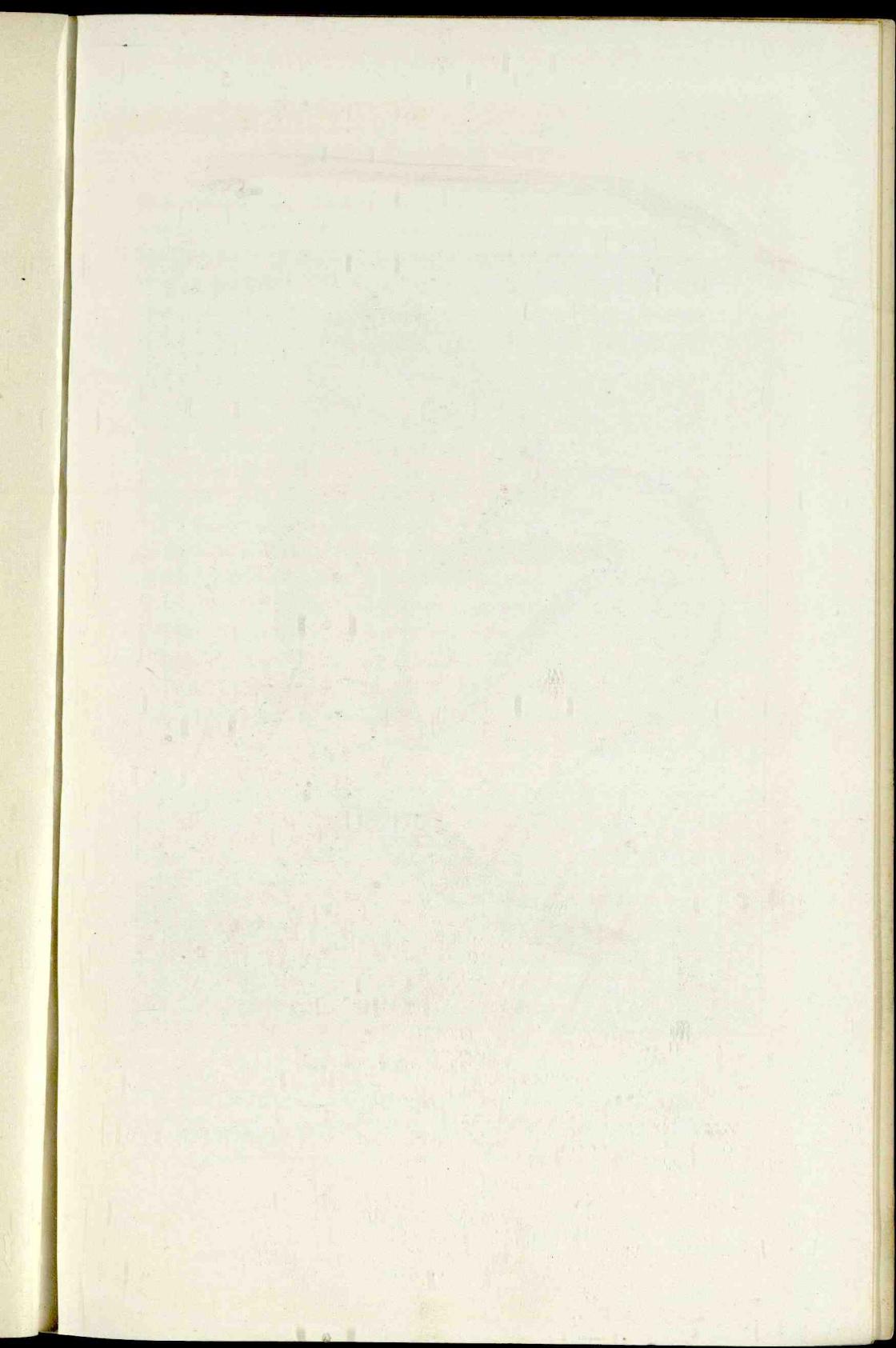
The drawing¹ shows metal buckles and, apparently, leather straps. Mortimer, in his *History of Wirral* (1847), pp. 170 and 225, gives drawings of a somewhat similarly shaped horn, but with more elaborate and apparently different fittings. Mortimer's description was evidently copied from Ormerod, and he goes on to state that

"Sir William Stanley [the 10th baronet] was in possession of the ancient bugle by which the bailiwick of the forest was held on consideration of the forester either blowing or causing that horn to be blown at Gloverstone, in Chester, on the morning of every fair day, to indicate that the tolls or duties payable on all goods, bought or sold in the city or within sound of that horn during the fair, belonged to the earl [of Chester] and his tenants there."

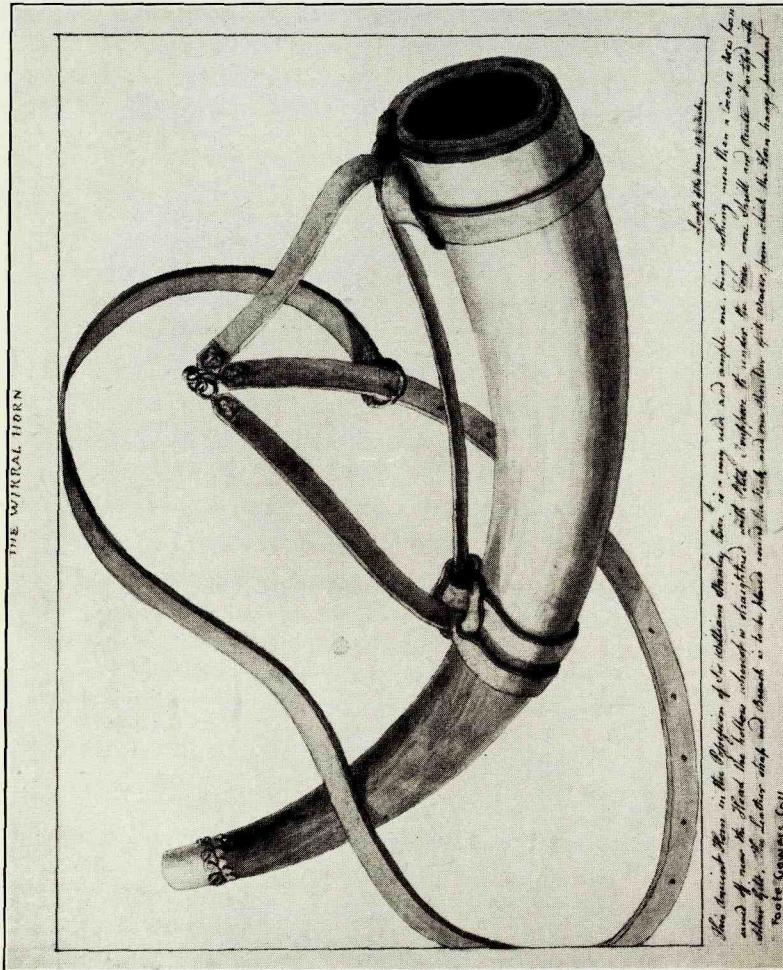
Mortimer gives no authority for this assertion and I can find nothing to support it. No such conditions are elsewhere recorded affecting the tenure of the master-forester. A horn was the emblem of his office as the record of 1361 testifies. Doubtless horns were sometimes customarily blown to indicate the opening and closing of fairs and markets,² but it seems improbable in the extreme

¹ Helsby ed. ii, 361.

² See the two papers on "Horns" by Dr. Bridge, *Jour. Chester Arch. Soc.*, XI, N.S., where at p. 102 Mortimer's statement is quoted. Numerous "charter horns" are mentioned.



THE WHIRL HORN



Sight the two hands
The Lurid Horn in the Bottom of the Whirl Horn, being nothing more than a piece of deer-horn
and of new the Head the bottom (which is straight) with the Top (sphere) to the side were bound and made so tight and
close together that the leather strap and thong is to be found round the neck and another part whereabout the Horn hangs suspended
—
THOMAS GUNNERS Coll.

that either the master-forester or his men would be required to leave their forest duties for such a purpose. So urgent and important were these duties considered that, as has been shown above, it was only on occasions of actual military service that the foresters were excused from performing them. Further, when the justice and sheriff of Cheshire held their courts in Wirral, the representative attending from the Stanley's manor of Storeton had to go back at once to his duties, after blowing a blast upon his forester's horn to show that he was present, instead of waiting, like the representatives of other townships, to serve upon juries and inquisitions.¹

In 1912 the late Mr. Harold E. Young, of Liverpool, published, in a booklet *Picturesque Wirral*, a photograph of the "Wirral Horn" which he had been allowed to make by permission of its then owner Lord Errington (now the second Earl of Cromer), to whom his great-aunt Lady Massey-Stanley-Errington, widow of the twelfth and last baronet of Storeton and Hooton, bequeathed the horn. The photograph, which Mr. Young stated was the first accurate representation of the horn which had appeared, shows a horn generally resembling the one figured by Ormerod, and with somewhat similar (possibly Tudor) fittings and straps, but differing entirely as regards the latter from Mortimer's engravings. Upon the horn has been attached a modern silver plate bearing an inscription which Mr. Young did not give, but which is set out in the Appendix below, with the consent of Lord Cromer, who kindly supplied me with a copy. The horn was exhibited some years ago by Mr. W. F. Irvine at a meeting of the Society of Antiquaries, but does not, I think, find mention in that Society's publications. By the courtesy of Mr. Henry S. Young, Mr. Harold Young's brother, a reproduction of the latter's photograph of the horn is given here.

I also give a reproduction of a sepia drawing of this

¹ *Cheshire Sheaf*, 1935, Quo Warranto Pleas, 1499, No. LVI.

horn, which was produced by Mr. D. L. Evans, a member of this Society, at the meeting when my paper was read, and has since passed into the possession of Mr. Robert Gladstone. It is lettered, at the top, "The Wirral Horn," and below

"This ancient Horn in the possession of Sir William Stanley Bart^t. is a very rude and simple one, being nothing more than a cow's or ox's horn sawed off near the head, the hollow whereof is straightened with pitch I suppose to render the tone more shrill and acute, it is tip'd with silver gilt, the leather strap and broach is to be placed round the neck and one shoulder of its wearer, from which the Horn hangs pendant. Length of the Horn 19½ inches. Foote Gowers Coll."

Mr. Robert Gladstone, who kindly gave me a photograph of this drawing, makes the following comments :

"The drawing cannot be later than 1792, when Sir William Stanley, who is mentioned in the inscription on the drawing as in possession of the horn, died. The horn is shown in its original condition, with the complete leather straps, and before the silver plate was fastened on the side. There can be no doubt that the drawing was made for Dr. Foote Gower, the (would-be) historian of Cheshire, who died 27 May 1780, and therefore the drawing must have been made prior to that date. The reasons for connecting the drawing with Foote Gower are as follow : (1) 'Foote Gowers Coll.' is written on the margin of the drawing. (2) The inscription beneath the drawing is, in my opinion, undoubtedly in Foote Gower's own writing, of which I have plenty of specimens in 3 vols. of his MSS. which I possess. (3) In the Sale Catalogue of the Foote Gower MSS. (1834), of which there is a copy in the Liverpool Public Library (F.Q. 593), this actual drawing forms part of Lot 53. In the inscription beneath the drawing, the word 'straightened' means *constricted* or *reduced*, not 'made straight' in the modern sense. Compare Matthew vii. 13-14 : 'Enter ye in at the *strait* gate, for *wide* is the gate and *broad* is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereto; because *strait* is the gate and *narrow* is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.' The Vulgate has '*angusta* porta,' and the Greek has the same meaning. The real reason for coating the inside of the horn

with pitch was not, I think, as alleged in the inscription, for the purpose of making it shriller by reducing the bore, but to put a surface on the inside and to prevent it rotting and smelling as the insides of horns always do, unless dressed and polished. No doubt boiling pitch was poured into the horn and then poured out again, before the tip was sawn off."

APPENDIX.

INSCRIPTION ON THE SILVER PLATE ON THE WIRRAL HORN.

"In the year 1120¹ *Randal de Meschines, Earl of Chester*, created *Alan Sylvester* chief forester of the forest of Wirral, and granted² to him the manors of Hooton,³ Storeton, and Puddington to hold upon the condition that he performed the duties of forester, and in addition⁴ that he blew or caused to be blown a horn at the *Gloverstone in Chester* on the morning of every fair day, to indicate that the tolls on all goods bought or sold in the city or within sound of that horn belonged to the Earl or his tenants. *Alan Sylvester* was succeeded by his son *Ralph*, on whose death, without issue, *Hugh Cyvelioc, Earl of Chester*, granted the same manors with the forestership to *Alexander de Storeton* on his marriage with *Annabella*, the daughter⁵ of *Alan Sylvester*. *Alexander de Storeton* again had only female issue, and the forestership passed next to *Sir Thomas Bamville*, who married *Agnes de Storeton*, daughter of *Alexander*. *Sir Philip Bamville*, the heir of *Sir Thomas*, also left issue, three daughters only, the eldest of whom, *Jane*, married *Sir William de Stanley*, and brought the forestership as part of her dower, the title of her son, *John Stanley*, having been proved in 1346 before *Jordan de Macclesfield*, Justice in Eyre to the *Earl of Chester*. In this family it remained until disafforested by *King Edward III*⁶ on the

¹ This may have been the approximate date when the master-forestership was created, though I do not know any satisfactory authority for it.

² The grant of Storeton and Puddington was by earl Ranulf "de Gernon" and not before 1129, as the charter proves.

³ Hooton was a Stanley property and was not granted by the charter.

⁴ See p. 108.

⁵ Annabella may have been daughter of Ralph. See Ormerod, ii, 446n.

⁶ See p. 99, footnote 5.

complaint of the citizens of *Chester*, who represented that they were grievous sufferers from the freebooters who lurked in the forest. The *Stanleys* petitioned the King for remuneration for the loss of the profits attached to the office of chief forester, and were granted an annuity of twenty marks,¹ which, however, seems to have been but indifferently paid. The horn, however, which was the symbol of their tenure, has remained in the possession of the *Stanley* family ever since.”

[*The words in italics are engraved in Gothic lettering.*]

¹ On 16 Sept. 1397, repeated 1 Oct. 1398 (*36 Rep. Dep. Keeper*, 445).