

British Sigillography Collection

Princeton Series: Royal/Court/Noble Seals

Item Number: 1

Title

Henry VI's 1st Great Seal

Physical Description

Seal in brown wax in fine condition approximately 5 inches in diameter.

Period: 1422? *Dealer:* Phillips Auction House

Notes

In use from 1422 to 1461, this was Henry VI's 1st Great Seal. Particularly important for its first claim to dominion over France, the seal is in the classic medieval style with an equestrian image on the obverse and the King seated on a throne on the reverse. "Henricus Dei Gratia Rex . . ."

Provenance



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Item Number: 2

Title

EDWARD IV (1442-1483). King of England. Royal Letters Patent in the name of Edward IV

Physical Description

1 page large oblong folio in Latin on vellum, c. 14 1/2 x 19 ins, 40 lines in a good Chancery hand, with an elaborate calligraphic initial letter E [of Edwardus]. The brown wax seal of the Court of Common Pleas, c. 2 3/4 ins in diameter, displaying on one side the King enthroned and on the other a shield with the Royal Arms, is attached by the original vellum tag. Westminster, 9 November 1464. The document is slightly creased, with one or two small minor stains, but is in

Period: 1446 **Dealer:** Maggs Bros Ltd.

Notes

EDWARD IV (1442-1483). King of England. Royal Letters Patent in the name of Edward IV, confirming the decision of the Warwick Assizes of 20 May 1446, before the Justices William Ayscogh and John Portyngton, in a dispute between Thomas Waldeyne, William Horton and others over rights to land in Hurley [in Kinsbury, Warwickshire]. This document concerns a long-running dispute over lands which William Horton's father Roger had acquired from Sir Ralph Bracebridge in 1418. (See V.C.H., Warwickshire, IV, 1947, p. 109). The property included a house, a hundred acres of pasture and 20 acres of woodland.

Provenance



British Sigillography Collection

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Item Number: 3

Title

Edward IV's 4th Great Seal

Physical Description

Seal in white wax in fine condition; approximately 5 inches in diameter

Period: 1471? *Dealer:* Phillips Auction

Notes

In use from 1471 to 1480, this was Edward IV's 4th Great Seal.

Provenance



British Sigillography Collection

Princeton Series: Royal/Court/Noble Seals

Item Number: 4

Title

Henry VIII's 3rd Great Seal

Physical Description

Seal in white wax in good condition approximately 80% complete and approximately 5 inches in diameter..

Period: 1542? *Dealer:* Phillips Auction

Notes

In use from 1542 to 1547, this was Henry VIII's 3rd Great Seal. This is the first Great Seal to be in the Renaissance style.

Provenance



British Sigillography Collection

Princeton Series: Royal/Court/Noble Seals

Item Number: 5

Title

Henry VIII's 3rd Great Seal detached from a letters patent of 1545 and accompanied by the remains of a white seal bag

Physical Description

Seal in dark green wax about 70% complete; images of king in good condition on both sides; along with remains of white silk seal bag; detached from a letters patent of Henry VIII dated January 3, 1545; (see item ID 437)

Period: 1545 *Dealer:* Stride & Sons Auction May, 1999.

Notes

In use from 1542 to 1547, this was Henry VIII's 3rd Great Seal. This is the first Great Seal to be in the Renaissance style.

Provenance



British Sigillography Collection

Princeton Series: Royal/Court/Noble Seals

Item Number: 6

Title

Henry VIII letters patent dated January 3, 1545 being a crown grant of numerous properties to Sir Thomas Paston, Knight, of the Privy Chamber [along with] Great Seal of Henry VIII

Physical Description

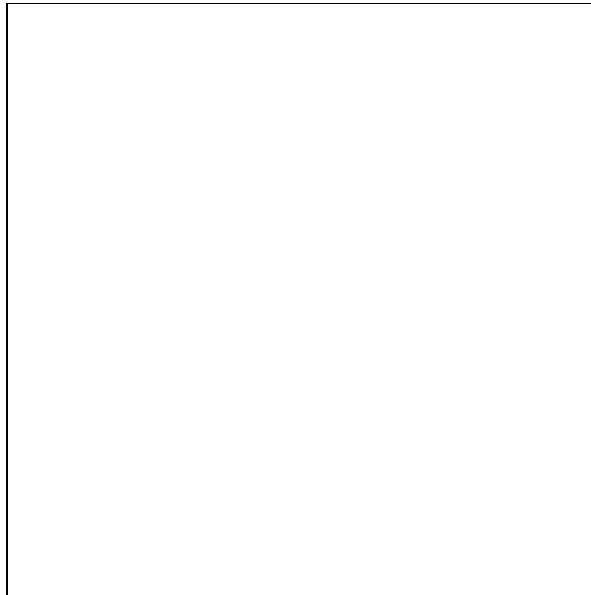
Vellum patent measuring 37" x 23", calligraphic initial portrait letter with pen & ink portrait of Henry VIII, seated, wearing crown and holding orb and sceptre; other decoration at head; calligraphic first line; laid down on card; some edge chipping, dustmarking, some wear at folds with slight loss, but generally legible; together with (but detached from) the third great seal of Henry VIII in dark green wax (see item ID #436)

Period: 1545 **Dealer:** Stride & Sons Auction 5/99

Notes

Dated January 3, 1545, this letters patent attests to a crown grant of numerous properties, many in Suffolk and Essex, to Sir Thomas Paston, one of the gentlemen of the Privy Chamber. The properties are granted to Paston for a sum of 1,280 pounds. Listed first is the College of St. Gregory in Sudbury which, according to Dugdale, was founded in 1375 when Simon Sudbury, then bishop of London, and his brother John bought the church of ISudbury St. Gregory and established a college for six secular priests in the place where their father's house had stood. The unfortunate founder, then archbishop of Canterbury, was beheaded during the 1381 revolt. In 1534 the property was worth 122.18.3 poiunds and was surrendered to the King in 1544.

Provenance



British Sigillography Collection

Princeton Series: Royal/Court/Noble Seals

Item Number: 7

Title

Edward VI's Seal of the Court of Augmentation

Physical Description

Seal in brown wax in fine condition approximately 5 inches in diameter showing remains of lug tab impressions.

Period: 1537? *Dealer:* Phillips Auction

Notes

In use from 1537 to 1553, this was Edward VI's Seal of the Court of Augmentation. Edward's father Henry VIII had created this court to dispose of the properties of the dissolved monasteries. The court had been created by his father Henry VIII.

Provenance



British Sigillography Collection

Princeton Series: Royal/Court/Noble Seals

Item Number: 8

Title

2nd Great Seal of James I and VI, on a license of alienation from John Estoste to Thomas Sanderson

Physical Description

Seal in dark brown wax, 6 inches in diameter; slight rubbing and melting around edges but essentially a fine impression; vellum document 9" x 15" in brown ink with pen flourished letter "J" at beginning of "Jacobus"

Period: 1622 *Dealer:* Phillips Auction of 24 March 2000

Notes

This is an extremely fine impression in brown wax of the 2nd Great Seal of James I. The seal is attached by a vellum tag which is intact. The latin document is somewhat dust-stained and spotted and is dated 20 October 1622. "The First Great Seal of James was designed by the royal minter Charles Anthony, according to a warrant of 8 May 1603. After two years of use, it was discovered that the king's head on the obverse had suffered chipping. James complained of these assaults on his royal person the seal was altered by projecting the canopy over the King's head out from the surface. This [2nd] seal was used until the end of James' reign and was employed a few times by Charles I. It is the same seal held by Francis Bacon who was Keeper from 1617-1622." (H.P. Kraus, Inc.)

Provenance



British Sigillography Collection

Princeton Series: Royal/Court/Noble Seals

Item Number: 9

Title

Great Seal of Charles I attached to a Letter Patent [see separate entry 540]

Physical Description

Seal sympathetically repaired with loss to about 25% of the image; document and seal housed in the remains of a paper lined wooden skippet lined with printed paper

Period: 1630 *Dealer:* Bloomsbury Book Auctions; sale of 11 May 2000

Notes

Great Seal of Charles I dating to 1630.

Provenance



British Sigillography Collection

Princeton Series: Royal/Court/Noble Seals

Item Number: 10

Title

Charles I Letters Patent, granting a perpetuity to John Mountford, Richard Greene and others upon the Mountford Estate [along with] Great Seal of Charles I (see separate entry 541)

Physical Description

4 large vellum sheets; red and white ties attaching the Great Seal of Charles I in brown wax. Narrow head portrait of Charles I in pen and ink and lead shading within the initial letter "C". Historiated capitals in the first line, upper margin decorated with a lion, unicorn and a Tudor rose, ruled in red, creased, slightly soiled. Seal sympathetically repaired with loss to a third of the image; document and seal housed in the remains of a paper lined wooden skipket lined with printed

Period: 1630 **Dealer:** Bloomsbury Book Auctions; sale of 11 May 2000

Notes

Four large vellum sheets with white and red string holding them together at the bottom and attached to the Great Seal of Charles I in brown wax. The first leaf of the charter includes an initial letter portrait of Charles I in pen and ink with lead shading. The text mentions a "sportinghouse and Paris Gardens, Surrey."

Provenance



British Sigillography Collection

Princeton Series: Royal/Court/Noble Seals

Item Number: 11

Title

Queen Catherine's 2nd Great Seal

Physical Description

Seal in brown wax in fair condition with surfaces rubbed; approximately 5 inches in diameter

Period: 1685 *Dealer:* Phillips Auction

Notes

The seal dates to shortly before 1685.

Provenance



British Sigillography Collection

Princeton Series: Royal/Court/Noble Seals

Item Number: 12

Title

Charles II Seal of the Court of Augmentation

Physical Description

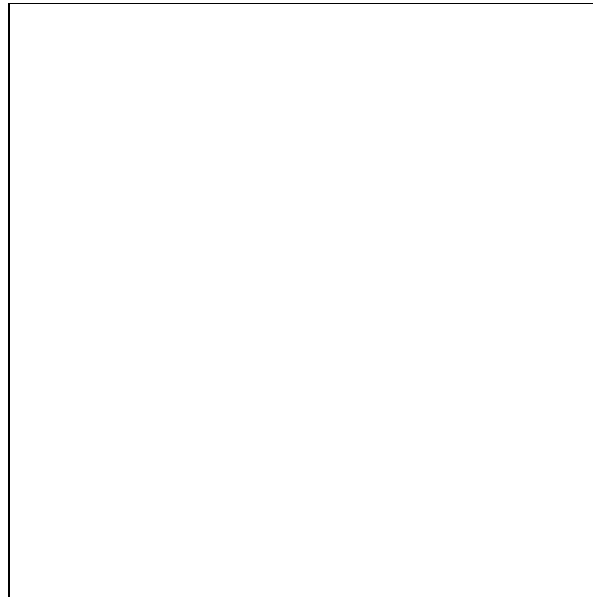
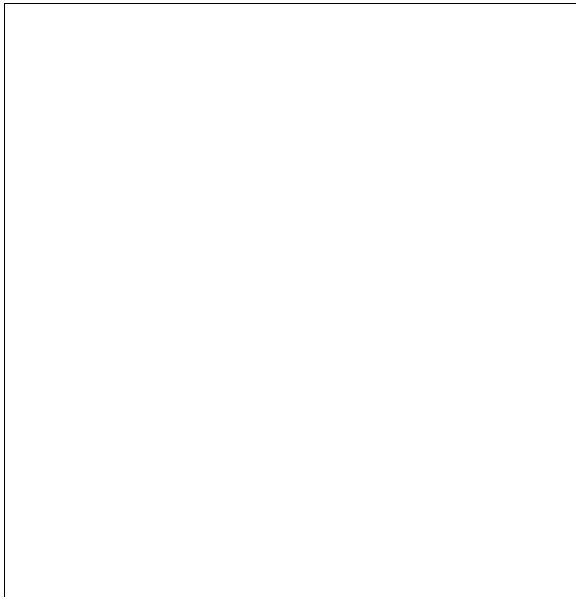
Seal in green wax broken and repaired with only slight losses; approximately 5 inches in diameter

Period: 1660? *Dealer:* Phillips Auction

Notes

In use from 1660 to 1668, this was Charles II Seal of the Court of Augmentation. The Court of Augmentation had been set up by Henry VIII to help disperse the assets of the monasteries he had dissolved.

Provenance



British Sigillography Collection

Princeton Series: Royal/Court/Noble Seals

Item Number: 13

Title

Great Seal of William and Mary

Physical Description

Seal in yellow wax approximately 5.5 inches in diameter.

Period: 1690? *Dealer:*

Notes

This is a very large, and rare, wax seal of William and Mary dating to about 1690. Purchased with a lot of early Americana.

Provenance



British Sigillography Collection

Princeton Series: Royal/Court/Noble Seals

Item Number: 14

Title

Great Seal of England of George II on a Royal Letters Patent

Physical Description

Handsome original vellum document 26 x 19 inches, engraved Royal Portrait and decorative borders, Great Seal in wax (6 inches diameter) suspended with the original ties, in good clean condition, unmounted

Period: 1735 *Dealer:* Julian Browning

Notes

GEORGE II. Royal Letters Patent 1735. Royal Letters Patent with Great Seal attached, appointing George Purvis, Captain R.N., to be a Commissioner of the Admiralty, to fulfil the duties of 'the Comptroller of Our Navy relateing to the Accounts of the Treasurer' with authority 'to sign Contracts, Bills, and Orders', with details of his duties and salary. .Westminster, 27 February 'in the Eighth Year of Our Reign'. An administrative appointment to the Admiralty. In February 1735 George Purvis was appointed Controller of the Treasurer's Accounts at the Admiralty in place of Admiral Sir George Saunders.

Provenance



British Sigillography Collection

Princeton Series: Royal/Court/Noble Seals

Item Number: 15

Title

Manuscript exemplification with pendant Great Seal of George III

Physical Description

Vellum royal exemplification; 32" x 24"; Great Seal of George III in green wax; seal lacks a small piece on verso; recto rubbed or melted obscuring features but verso quite clear

Period: 1788

Dealer: Dominic Winter Auction 3/98

Notes

An exemplification of recovery for lands in Wiltshire. The vellum document dated 1788 relates to lands in Easterton and Market Lavington. There is an initial engraved portrait letter of George III along with his pendant Great Seal in a metal container. The seal lacks a small piece on the verso. There is a revenue stamp as well as engraved decorative top and side borders.

Provenance



British Sigillography Collection

Princeton Series: Royal/Court/Noble Seals

Item Number: 16

Title

Great Seal of the Duke of Kent(?)

Physical Description

Approximately 3.5 inches in diameter and in fine condition.

Period: 1689 *Dealer:* Chris Brewchorne, private collector, Somerset, England

Notes

Unidentified noble seal with the arms of the Duke of Kent. The word "Comitatus" and the year 1689 appear.

Provenance

Said to have come from a document destroyed by water during the fire at Windsor Castle and was then deaccessioned



British Sigillography Collection

Princeton Series: Royal/Court/Noble Seals

Item Number: 17

Title

Queen Victoria's Great Seal in Tin Container

Physical Description

Seal in pale green wax in good condition inside tin container. Seal is approximately 6 inches in diameter..

Period: 1837 *Dealer:* Phillips Auction

Notes

Provenance



British Sigillography Collection

Princeton Series: Royal/Court/Noble Seals

Item Number: 18

Title

Queen Victoria Great Seal on Letters Patent

Physical Description

Seal approximately 6 inches in diameter in yellow wax; fine condition with most details clear.

Period: 1873

Dealer: Alameda Antique Emporium, Lakewood, CO

Notes

A patent document from 1873 printed on vellum paper measuring 29" x 20" with an embossed wax seal incased in a japanned tin skipket. The patent is dated 1873 #68 issued to John Argall for improvements in the manufacture of oil paints.

Provenance



British Sigillography Collection

Princeton Series: Royal/Court/Noble Seals

Item Number: 19

Title

Great Seal of James I

Physical Description

Seal in brown wax, cracked and repaired and approximately 6 inches in diameter.

Period: 1605? *Dealer:* Bristow & Garland Rare Books, Fordingbridge, HANTS, England

Notes

The 2nd Great Seal of James I was in use from 1605 to the end of James' reign. "The First Great Seal of James was designed by the royal minter Charles Anthony, according to a warrant of 8 May 1603. After two years of use, it was discovered that the king's head on the obverse had suffered chipping. James complained of these assaults on his royal person the seal was altered by projecting the canopy over the King's head out from the surface. This [2nd] seal was used until the end of James' reign and was employed a few times by Charles I. It is the same seal held by Francis Bacon who was Keeper from 1617-1622." (H.P. Kraus, Inc.)

Provenance



British Sigillography Collection

Princeton Series: Royal/Court/Noble Seals

Item Number: 20

Title

Great Seal of Queen Elizabeth I

Physical Description

Seal in brown wax approximately 5.5 inches in diameter; slightly bent from heating but most details still clear

Period: 1586?

Dealer: Bristow & Garland Rare Books, Fordingbridge, HANTS, England

Notes

This is the 2nd Great Seal of Elizabeth I. "The inscription reads: Elizabetha dei gracia Anglie Francie et Hibernie Regina Fidei Defensor ("Elizabeth, by grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith"). The seal was engraved by the famous miniaturist Nicholas Hilliard and was used by Elizabeth during the second half of her reign--from 1586 to 1603. It is more elaborate and detailed than the first seal, particularly as regards the Queen's magnificent costume. Heavenly rays above the Queen's head reflect her divine status, whilst the sceptre and orb that she holds are the traditional symbols of royal power. On the reverse side, Elizabeth is shown on horseback riding across a field of flowering plants, symbolising hope, prosperity and the Queen's femininity. She is flanked by the symbols of her realms; the Tudor Rose of England, the Harp of Ireland, and the Fleur-de-Lys of France. Unlike her male predecessors, Elizabeth is not shown in military dress, and the image portrayed is one of a strong, yet caring, feminine figure." (www.pro.gov.uk)

Provenance

