

HANTS FIELD CLUB AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



SEAL DESIGNED BY N. C. H. NISBETT, A.R.I.B.A.

ON THE NEW DEVICE OR SEAL OF
THE HANTS FIELD CLUB AND
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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With the present number we adopt a new device or seal surrounded with the extended title of our Society. The reasonableness of this departure it is our object to explain. At our Annual Meeting at Winchester (March 29th, 1898), it was decided that as "*The Hampshire Field Club*" did not confine itself to nature study but occupied itself largely with subjects of antiquarian interest its title should include that branch of observation, and accordingly we have since been known as "*The Hampshire Field Club and Archæological Society*." This fuller title has brought us into line with the kindred societies of other counties with whose publications our Papers and Proceedings it has been thought favourably compare.

Our extended title has suggested a new device and form of seal, for which our ever ready and talented member Mr. N. C. H. Nisbett, A.R.I.B.A., of Winchester, has furnished a design, the details of which have received considerable attention. It will be seen that we have abandoned the form of an escutcheon since my friend Mr. Everard Green, F.S.A. Rouge Dragon of the Herald's College, assures me that counties have no arms and consequently no right to bear a shield.

Accordingly our present device consists of a double rose, surmounted by a royal crown, having on either side a spray of laurel, the whole surrounded by the title of our Society. The rose and crown, with sprays of laurel, appear in some old books and records belonging to the county deposited at Winchester,

and these have furnished authority for the badge of the County Council who have adopted this form surmounted by a cap sometimes found. This latter is probably a perversion of the "cap of maintenance," used at the coronation and on other State occasions, its hereditary bearer being the Marquis of Winchester. The Paulet's influence in the county, and their association with the history of Winchester is well-known.

The rose and crown is freely used throughout the Great Hall of Winchester Castle as an architectural ornament, and Mr. Melville Portal tells us¹ that "the rose and crown has been accepted for a considerable period as the County Badge, and it has been said that it was granted by Henry V. in 1415, to the trained bands of Hampshire for some special acts of gallantry either at the battle of Agincourt, or during the brief campaign in which that battle was fought."

The form of rose to be adopted has required some consideration whether the *red* rose of Lancaster, the *white* of York, or the *combined double rose* commonly called Tudor? The red rose is said to have been assumed by John of Gaunt (ob 1399), Duke of Lancaster and the white rose by his brother Edmund, Duke of York (ob 1402), while an heraldic rose *quarterly gu and arg*, or a white heraldic rose *charged upon a red one* has been assigned to the house of Tudor.

In the Cathedral of Winchester we have a variety of forms. In the roof of the choir, the work of Bishop Fox (ob 1528), we have the double rose, also the single rose, whether of York or Lancaster cannot always be determined. The roof of the nave begun by Wykeham and completed by Waynflote, is also decorated with double roses on the intersections of the vaulting ribs. It is well known that Bishop Waynflote (ob 1486) and churchmen generally were partisans of the Lancastrian house with which Winchester probably sympathized, but neither that bishop nor his city played any important part in the troubles.²

The double rose assigned to the Tudors is found in a much earlier period, and the examples above referred to show that the combination dates back more than four hundred years.

¹Great Hall of Winchester Castle, p. 74.

²Dean Kitchen's *Winchester* p. 147, *Historic Towns Series*.

We have seen a design for the County Badge by Mr. F. J. Baigent, no mean authority, who gives a red rose, barbed vert, ensigned by a crown, the whole encircled by a garter entwined on either side with a spray of laurel, at base a ribbon incised *Com. Southton*.

Failing to find any authoritative evidence as to the form of rose we have adopted the double rose which was certainly found in Winchester and elsewhere before Tudor times, and has been handed down to a more recent period, of which an example is given in the accompanying illustration.



The Seal here shewn is from a cast deposited in the Winchester Museum, by Mr. Alderman W. H. Jacob, to whom the original belongs and whose zeal and interest in the history and antiquities of his native city is worthy of all praise. The original is of silver and measures 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ in. in diameter. In the centre is a combined rose surmounted by a crown

with the initials C. R. with the inscription SIGIL RECOGN CAROLI REGIS PRO DEBIT RECUPERAND, which may be thus extended *sigillum recognitionum (or nis) Caroli regis pro debitis recuperandis* or *the seal of recognizance for the recovery of debts*. Its use was for sealing recognizances or bonds under the Statute of Staple, and for this purpose it probably served under both Charles I. and II. Winchester, as is well known, was one of ten Staples for wool the present name of Staple Gardens, still commemorates this¹

Alderman Jacob gives the following account of the way in which he became possessed of the seal: "An old friend, Mrs. H. Ewens, gave me the seal which she received from a relative who had it from a citizen, Mr. John Meare, who was steward

¹Mr. Reginald A. Smith, of the British Museum, writes: "The exact use of the seal is not quite clear" and for information refers to Cunningham's *Law Dictionary*, Vol. ii. art. Statute Staple.

of St. Cross Hospital in 1774, a freeman of Winchester 1809, and city solicitor. Presumably the seal became obsolete legally in the 18th century, and Meare got it or it remained in his possession.

Such is the summary of information we have gathered before determining the design for the device of our Society which, founded in 1885, this year (1906) attains its majority. May our new seal mark a period of increasing usefulness and prosperity.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Nisbett for his kindly readiness and skill in providing the design at the writer's request ; also to Alderman W. H. Jacob for some particulars concerning the seal ; to Messrs. Warren and Son for the loan of the block of our illustration.
