

**BOROUGH SEALS OF THE GOTHIC
PERIOD: A SERIES OF EXAMPLES,
ILLUSTRATING THE NATURE OF
THEIR DESIGN AND ARTISTIC
VALUE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649127313

Borough seals of the Gothic Period: a series of examples, illustrating the nature of their design and artistic value by Gale Pedrick

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GALE PEDRICK

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AND ARTISTIC VALUE**

OF THE GOTHIC PERIOD

A SERIES OF EXAMPLES, ILLUSTRATING THE
NATURE OF THEIR DESIGN AND ARTISTIC
VALUE, SELECTED, INTRODUCED
AND DESCRIBED BY

GALE PEDRICK

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PREFACE

THEIR selection having been made entirely with that view, and after a careful and exhaustive examination of Borough seals yet extant, and of impressions from lost originals still available, I may fairly claim that the examples displayed in this work include the finest specimens of their order produced in the XIIIth, XIVth, and XVth centuries. Collectively, therefore, they completely illustrate the characteristics of the Art involved in their creation, fully reveal the excellence to which that Art attained, and, moreover, constitute its more telling exponents.

Except as regards a few instances, and then only in scattered forms, these seals have not been hitherto illustrated through the photographic medium, the only medium which affords their *actual* reproduction, and admits, by means of its results, of a correct realisation of their artistic qualities. This fact—and the undeniable beauty of the objects in question far more strenuously—justifies, I hope, the present attempt at collective and suitable reproduction of the best examples to be discovered. My thanks are due to Mr. A. Ready, of the British Museum, for the admirable manner in which the casts were made.

In view of the principle by which the selection of seals was governed, the constitution of the list of Boroughs to which they appertain was necessarily undesigned, and, therefore, the circumstance that it comprehends many important cities and towns with engrossing histories and features, is purely accidental. As regards the notices of these cities and towns contained in it, the work is mainly a compilation. Beyond the chief subject of seals, and the interpretation of their designs, I have not undertaken any independent investigations, but derived whatever informa-

PREFACE

tion I required from sources which already existed. It is not here feasible to enumerate all the works which have assisted me in the execution of my plan, but, as on a former occasion, I readily express the fact that I am very largely indebted to the *Catalogue of Seals in the Department of Manuscripts in the British Museum*, by Dr. W. de G. Birch, F.S.A.

TEIGNMOUTH, *August*, 1904

GALE PEDRICK

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