

I.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE OF THE SEALS OF THE ROYAL BURGHS OF
SCOTLAND. By JAMES URQUHART, F.S.A. Scot.

Recently, when looking over a manuscript volume (which I now exhibit) containing the most complete set I know of drawings and impressions of the Seals of the Royal Burghs of Scotland,—the collection (which contains 182 different obverses and 28 different reverses of seals, of which some 40 bear figures of patron saints) being the result of many years' search and investigation,—my interest became excited to ascertain how many are registered in the Lyon Office, and particularly what information is known regarding those not so registered.

As this volume is recognised by several authorities as the most complete of its kind,¹ I now beg to submit the following preliminary analysis of its contents.

Most of the seals are non-heraldic: several represent religious devices or incidents connected with the town with which they are associated, and others bear the arms of a powerful family resident in the immediate vicinity of the particular burghs when adopted. Some

¹ It is but right to mention that in 1894 a notice appearing in more than one of our public newspapers stating that the Marquess of Bute had in contemplation a heraldic work dealing with the Municipal Arms of the Burghs of Scotland, this particular MS. volume was at that time brought under his notice, but his representative, on 28th May 1894, wrote that his Lordship did not think that it would be of material assistance in the special work which he had in view. At what stage this work has arrived and how far successful in its purport I have not the pleasure of knowing, although I have recently learned that it is in full progress.

are very ancient and might stand for arms, while a number are simply armorial versions of their ancient seals. These seals are of the highest importance, dating from the 12th century downwards, many being gems of heraldic beauty and highest art. In bygone days symbolising to all in lieu of mandate writing, designation, and authority, they still continue to hold their own in this respect, while they further possess historical value to the antiquary, enabling him to verify data regarding environment, as well as to appraise the skill of artistic design and workmanship belonging to the particular period of each seal.

Of the 66 royal burghs which ranked according to their precedence in the rolls of Parliament at the Union of England and Scotland, only 22 royal burghs, or one-third of the whole, have their arms matriculated in the Lyon Office.

In view of the changes which appear on the seals of the same burgh, arising partly as the matrix has been renewed through wear, or being lost, supplied with an apparent facsimile, or from a deliberate change of design, or from accident in copying by the designer, and considering the importance that one correct seal of a royal burgh should be duly accredited by the Lord Lyon, it not only seems strange that so few seals are registered, but that the anomaly should have been allowed so long to continue. Some burghs may have been registered although no record can be found of this. For example, Peebles claims to have been a victim to the loss which destroyed heraldic records for 130 years prior to 1672; while Elgin maintains that it obtained a grant, but that the Lord Lyon of the day omitted to record the fact. I understand in cases of this kind special arrangements can be made to obtain a matriculation instead of a grant. By an Act passed in 1672, cap. 47, wherein His Majesty Charles II. ratifies and approves of the 125 Act of the 12th Parliament holden by his grandfather, James II., in 1592, registration was made compulsory, under pain of penalty. The Act says further:—

“It is statute and ordained, with consent of the Estates of Parliament, that the said Register shall be respected as the true and unrepealable rule of all armes and bearings in Scotland, to remain with the Lyon Office and Public Register

of the Kingdome, and to be transmitted to his successors in all tyme coming; and that whosoever shall use any other Armes any manner of way after the expiring and year and day from the date of the Proclamation to be issued herupon in mannir foresaid, shall pay 100 pounds money *toties quoties* to the Lyon, and shall likewise escheat to His Majesty all the moveable goods and geir upon which the said Armes are engraven or otherwise represented."

And again, the Lyon King at Armes and his Bretheren are "required to be carefull of informing themselves on the contravenors hereof, and that they acquaint His Majesties Councill therewith, who are hereby impowered to punish them as persones disobedient to and contraveiners of the Law."

Under this Act, in 1732 a precept was issued by the Lord Lyon against the magistrates of Edinburgh for assuming arms without a warrant. A contribution to meet the expense of the action was given by the Convention of Royal Burghs, who considered the case a test one. The action, however, fell through, and the town only matriculated in 1774, some forty-two years afterwards.

In 1818 an authority writing in regard to this Act says "it is now nearly obsolete, and probably there has been no conviction under the Statute." But there is still life and power in this Act, for recently the Lord Lyon, under its provisions, obtained obedience to his commands. The Lyon Office, moreover, is founded upon this Act, under which no one is allowed to use arms without the sanction of the Lord Lyon, and all fees for grants or matriculation are Crown revenue. The Act is still in force until repealed; and its value is apparent, without observation, not to speak of discussion, and should be enforced on public grounds.

In going over the proceedings of the Convention of Royal Burghs, I find the following indications that the Convention recognised the importance and value of the Burgh Seals, and instructed careful watchfulness over them, and that the Lord Lyon of the day was not behind them in oversight:—

Item, that the comoun and principall seill of ilk brugh be in all tyme coming put and kept in their comoun kist, and na partiular office beirer to haue the keiping of the samyn, and that na liberty nor ewident be seillit with the said commoun seill bot in presens of the Counsale, within thair Counsal-hous,

A. D. A. D.
Book 1597-1614.
Sec. 25, p. 81.

vpoun ane special conweyneing day, vnder the pane of xx li., to be payit to the burrowis be the burgh contraweneand, *totius quoties*.

A.D. A.D.
Book 1615-1676,
Sec. 14, p. 635.

The Convention, considering the contents of a Missive direct to them be the Lord Lyon anent the matriculating of the arms of the royall burrows, and of his lordshippis kynd expression to them therein, wherof they are verrie sensible, and furder conceaveing that it is most convenient for avoyding of future truble, and that it tends much to the securitie and preservation in all tyme coming of the particular coatts of arms of eatch severall burgh that the arms of the whole burrows of the kingdome be registratt and matriculat in the said Lord Lyons books, to the effect extract may be given furth thereof, therefor the convention ordains the hail burrowes of this kingdome to take furth extracts of their respective coatts of arms out of the said Lord Lyons books, and that betuixt and the next generall convention, as they will be ansuerable to the censure of the said convention.

A.D. A.D.
Book 1615-1676,
Sec. 25, p. 665.

The Convention revives ane former Act made out at the generall conventione holden at Perth, ordaining the hail royall burrows to matriculate their coatts of arms in the Lord Lyons books, and appoynts such of the burghs as have not as yet taken extracts of their coatts of arms furth of his books to doe the same with all convenient diligence.

Of the 22 registered burghs, while only one seal is recorded for each in the Lyon Office, I find there exist impressions of 80 obverses and 16 reverses; one possessing no less than 8 obverse and 2 reverse; another, 6 obverse and 4 reverse; another, 7 obverse and 1 reverse; three, 6 obverse and 1 reverse; one, 5 obverse and 2 reverse; one, 4 obverse and 1 reverse; two, 3 obverse and 1 reverse; two, 4 obverse; one, 2 obverse and 1 reverse; seven, 2 obverse; and two, 1 obverse each,—all being of various designs and belonging to different periods. The following table (I.) will show the names of these burghs in the order of their precedency, as recognised by the Convention of Royal Burghs, spelt as in the Act settling the manner of electing Peers and Commons to represent Scotland in the Parliament of Great Britain 1707, c. 8, adding—

- I. The period of the Charter incorporating each particular Burgh.
- II. The number of different specimens of Seals belonging to each Burgh.
- III. The name of the Patron Saint, if any, and known, or Figure on Seal; and
- IV. The Motto or Legend.

I. TABLE OF REGISTERED BURGHS, IN THE ORDER OF PRECEDENCY AS RECORDED BY THE
CONVENTION OF ROYAL BURGHS.

No. of Order.	Burgh.	Period of Charter.	No. of Specimens of Seals.		Patron Saint or Figure on Seal.	Motto or Legend.
			Obverse.	Reverse.		
1	Edinburgh	David I.	8	2	St Giles	Nisi Dominus Frustra
2	Perth	David I.	3	1	St John Baptist	Pro Rege Lege et Grege
3	Dundee	William I.	5	2	St Mary & St Clement	"Dei Donum" "Prudentia et Candore"
4	Aberdeen	David I.	6	4	St Nicolas	Bon Accord
5	Stirling	David I.	7	1	Crucifixion	{ Continet Hoc In Se Nemus et Castrum Strivelense "Hic armis Bruti Scoti stant Hic Cruce Tuti" "Collocet in cœlis nos omnes vis Michaelis"
6	Linlithgow	David I.	6	1	St Michael	{ My Fruit is Fidelity to God and the King Let Glasgow Flourish
7	Glasgow	Charles I. (1636)	6	1	St Mungo or St Kentigern	{ Let Glasgow Flourish through the preaching of Thy word [and the praise of Thy name]
8	Air	William I. (1202)	2	...	St John the Baptist	
9	Kirkaldie	Charles I. (1644)	6	1	St Bryce	Vigilando Munio
10	Montrose	David I.	3	1	St Peter	Mare Ditat Rosa Decorat
11	Jedburgh	David I.	4	...	St Mary	Strenve et prospere
12	Pittenweem	Charles I. (1633)	2	...	St Aidan	Deo Duce
13	Dumbrifton	Alexander II. (1222)	2	...	...	Fortitudo et Fidelitas
14	Renfrew	Robert III. (1396)	1	...	...	Deus Gubernat Navem
15	Elgin	William I.	2	...	St Giles or St Egidius	Sic Itur ad Astra
16	Peebles	David I.	2	...	St Andrew	Contra Nando Incrementum
17	Tayne	James VI. (1587)	1	...	St Duthacus	"St Beatus est Duthacus"
18	Bamff	William I.	4	...	St Mary	
19	Rutherglen	David I.	4	1	St Mary	Fama et Fumo
20	Queensferry	Charles I. (1636)	2	1	St Margaret	
21	Kirkwall	James III. (1486)	2	...	St Magnus	Si Deus Nobiscum
22	Stranrawer	James VI. (1617)	2	Tutisima Statio
			80	16		

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Passing on to the 44 Royal Burghs which have not registered their seals, and are not recognised by the Lord Lyon, either through their not having obtained a grant of arms from him, or which, believing that they were entered before 1672, have not matriculated in terms of the Act, I find 103 obverse and 12 reverse: one possessing 7 obverse and 1 reverse; another, 6 obverse and 1 reverse; another, 5 obverse and 2 reverse; two, 6 obverse; two, 4 obverse and 1 reverse; one, 3 obverse and 2 reverse; one, 4 obverse; one, 3 obverse and 1 reverse; four, 3 obverse; two, 2 obverse and 1 reverse; eleven, 2 obverse; one, obverse and reverse; and the remaining sixteen, 1 obverse seal.

The following table (II.) applicable to these burghs is prepared in a manner exactly similar to the one submitted for the registered burghs previously referred to.

A glance at both tables shows that, out of the 66 Royal Burghs, while only 1 burgh, St Andrews (or at the most 2 burghs if we include Perth or St Johnstoun) is called after a saint, 42, or nearly two-thirds, claim the protection of a patron saint, of which the Virgin and Child heads the list with 10 burghs under her care; St Peter with 3; St John the Baptist, St Giles, St Michael, St Andrew, St Margaret, St Martin and St Ninian with 2 burghs each, in some cases sharing the distinction with another saint, such as St Leonard, St Boniface, or St Clement; while St Nicholas, St Mungo or St Kentigern, St Bryce, St Aidan, St Egidius or St Giles, St Duthacus, St Magnus, St Leonard, St Cuthbert, St Thomas a Becket, St Serf or St Servanus, St Laurence, St Boniface, and St Magdalene are each appealed to by 1 burgh. The Crucifixion, the Holy Trinity, King David I., and King Robert are included in the above.

Of the 8 burghs which are Cities, viz., Aberdeen, Brechin, Dundee, Edinburgh, Elgin, Glasgow, Perth, and St Andrews, the cities of Brechin and St Andrews are still unregistered in the Lyon Office.

II. ROYAL BURGHS WHICH HAVE NOT REGISTERED THEIR SEALS.

No. of Order.	Burgh.	Period of Charter.	No. of Specimens of Seals.		Patron Saint or Figure on Seal.	Motto or Legend.
			Obverse.	Reverse.		
1	St Andrews	David I. (1140)	7	1	St Andrew	"Cursus apri Regalis." "Dum Spiro Spero" David Dei Gratia Rex Scottorum
2	Haddington	David I.	4	1	King David I.	
3	Dysart	James V.	1	...	...	Unitas Virtute Resparve Rescunt
4	Coupar	David II. (1363)	4	1	Holy Trinity	
5	Anstruther Easter	James VI. (1583)	1	...	...	Concordia et Fidelitas
6	Dumfries	David I.	6	...	St Michael	
7	Inverness	William I.	6	1	St Mary Crucifixion	Sanctus Leonardus de Kingorn [Kingorme]
8	Bruntisland	James V. (1541)	2	...	...
9	Inverkeithen	David I.	3	1	...	Tandem Bona Causa Triumphat
10	Kinghorn	Alexander III.	2	...	St Leonard	
11	Breichen	Charles I. (1641)	3	...	St Ninian	Esto Rupes Inaccessa
12	Irvin	Robert I. (1308)	5	2	St Mary	
13	Kirkcudbright	James II. (1455)	2	...	St Cuthbert	Et Spreta Incolumem Vita Defendere Famam
14	Wigtoun	James III. (1469)	1	...	St Martin	
15	Dumfermline	James VI. (1588)	3	2	St Margaret, King Robert	Et Spreta Incolumem Vita Defendere Famam
16	Anstruther Wester	James VI. (1587)	1	...	...
17	Selkirk	David I.	2	...	St Mary	Et Spreta Incolumem Vita Defendere Famam
18	Dumbar	David II.	2	...	...
19	Lanerk	David I.	6	...	...	Et Spreta Incolumem Vita Defendere Famam
20	Aberbrothock or Arbroath	James VI. (1599)	2	...	St Thomas a Becket	
21	Craill	Robert I. (1306)	2	1	St Mary	Et Spreta Incolumem Vita Defendere Famam
22	Culross	James VI. (1588)	2	...	St Serf or St Servanus	
23	Whitehern	Robert I.	2	...	St Leonard or (St Ninian) St Martin	Et Spreta Incolumem Vita Defendere Famam
Carry forward,			69	10		

II. ROYAL BURGHS WHICH HAVE NOT REGISTERED THEIR SEALS—*continued.*

No. of Order.	Burgh.	Period of Charter.	No. of Specimens of Seals.		Patron Saint or Figure on Seal.	Motto or Legend.
			Obverse.	Reverse.		
		Brought forward,	69	10		
24	Forfar	David I.	3	...	...	Ut Quocumque Paratus
25	Rothessay	Robert III. (1400)	2	1	...	Per Robertem Regem Scotorum Libertas Datur Villae de Rothisea
26	Nairn	William I.	2	...	St Ninian	
27	Forress	William I.	4	...	St Laurence	Jehova Tu Mihi Deus Quid De Est
28	Northberwick	Robert III.	1	...	...	Victoriae Gloria Merces
29	Cullen	William I.	1	...	St Mary	
30	Lauder	James IV. (1494)	2	...	St Mary	
31	Kilrennie	Anne (1707)	1	...	...	Semper Tibi Pendiāt Hamus
32	Annan	James I. (1538) and James VI. (1612)	1	...	...
33	Lochmaben	Robert I.	1	...	St Magdalene	
34	Sanquhar	James VI. (1598)	1	...	...
35	New Galloway	Charles I. (1629)	1	...	...	Cruce Crescimus
36	Dingwall	Alexander II. (1226)	1	...	...
37	Dornock	Charles I. (1628)	1	...	...	Sans Peur
38	Fortrose or Chanonry	James II. (1455)	1	...	St Peter—St Boniface	
39	Kintore	William I.	1	...	...
40	Inverury	Mary (1558)	2	...	...	Urbs In Rure
41	Inverary	Charles I. (1648)	3	...	...	Semper Tibi Pendeat Halec
42	Week	James VI. (1589)	1	1	St Peter or St Clement	Nisi Dominus Frustra
43	Inverbervy or Bervie	David I. (1362)	3	...	...
44	Completoun	William III. (1700)	1	...	...	Ignavis Precibus Fortuna Repugnat
			103	12		

The following table (III.) shows that 16 burghs date from the 12th century ; 12 from the 13th century ; 9 from the 14th century ; 6 from the 15th century ; 12 from the 16th century ; 10 from the 17th century ; and one from the 18th century.

III. ROYAL BURGHS OF SCOTLAND, ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY.

12th Century	David I.		Aberdeen
	"		Dumfries
	"		Edinburgh
	"		Forfar
	"		Haddington
	"		Inverkeithing
	"		Jedburgh
	"		Lanark
	"		Linlithgow
	"		Montrose
	"		Peebles
	"		Perth
	"		Rutherglen
	"	1140	St Andrews
13th Century	"		Selkirk
	"		Stirling
	William I.	1202	Ayr
	"		Banff
	"		Cullen
	"		Dundee
	"		Elgin
	"		Forres
	"		Inverness
	"		Kintore
14th Century	"		Nairn
	Alexander II.	1222	Dumbarton
	"	1226	Dingwall
	Alexander III.		Kinghorn
	Robert I.	1306	Crail
	"	1308	Irvine
15th Century	"		Lochmaben
	"		Whithorn
	David II.	1362	Bervie (Inverbervie)
	"	1363	Cupar
	"		Dunbar
	Robert III.	1396	Renfrew
	"		North Berwick [second charter granted by James VI. in 1568]
16th Century	"	1400	Rothsay
	James II.	1455	Fortrose
	"	"	Kirkcudbright

III. ROYAL BURGHS OF SCOTLAND, ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY—
continued.

15th Century	James III.	1469	Wigtown
	”	1486	Kirkwall
16th Century	James IV.	1494	Lauder
	James V.	1538	Annan [also 17th century, James VI., 1612]
	”	1541	Burntisland
	”	”	Dysart
	Mary	1558	Inverurie
	James VI.	1583	Anstruther Easter
	”	1587	” Wester
	”	”	Tain
	”	1588	Culross
	”	”	Dunfermline
	”	1589	Wick
	17th Century	”	1598	Sanquhar.
”		1599	Arbroath (Aberbrothock)
”		1617	Stranraer
Charles I.		1628	Dornoch
”		1629	New Galloway
”		1633	Pittenweem
”		1636	Glasgow
”		”	Queensferry (South)
”		1641	Brechin.
”		1644	Kirkcaldy
”		1648	Inveraray
18th Century	William III.	1700	Campbeltown
	Anne	1707	Kilrenny

Viewing the 66 burghs geographically, we find no less than 14 (and if we add the 4 which were not included at the Union, viz., Auchtermuchty, Earlsferry, Falkland, and Newburgh, 18) in the favoured county of Fife, 5 in the county of Forfar, 4 in the county of Dumfries, 3 in each of the counties of Aberdeen, Haddington, Lanark, Ross, and Wigtown, 2 in each of the counties of Argyle, Ayr, Banff, Elgin, Kirkeudbright, and Linlithgow, and 1 in each of the others, excepting the counties of Clackmannan and Cromarty, in neither of which is there a royal burgh; 42 burghs appear on the sea-coast line, showing 7 on the west side, 5 on the south side, and 30 on the east side, of which no less than 16 lie between Dundee and Dunbar inclusively.

Turning to the list of authorities on Royal Burgh Seals, apart from the Lyon Register, I find the following works on the subject, which I have arranged in chronological order, viz.:

I. *A Complete Body of Heraldry*, by Joseph Edmondson, Esq., F.S.A., Mowbray Herald-Extraordinary, London. 1780. [Vols., folio.] Vol. i.—The Royal Burghs in Scotland, ranked according to their precedency in the Rolls of Parliament, together with the Blazons of the Arms of such of them as are matriculated in the Registers of the Lyon Office.

This work, *inter alia*, refers to 63 and describes 38 Royal Burgh Seals.

II. *An Account of the Seals of the King's Royal Boroughs and Magnates of Scotland*, by Thomas Astle, Esq., F.R.S. and F.S.A, one of the Curators of the British Museum, and Keeper of the Records in the Tower of London, 1792.

This work, *inter alia*, describes and illustrates the obverse and reverse sides of 5 Royal Burgh Seals.

III. *Topographical Dictionary of Scotland*, by Samuel Lewis, London, 1846. "For the Seals and Arms that embellish the work the Proprietors are chiefly indebted to the Town Clerks of the several Burghs, who obliged them with wax impressions, from which most of the engravings have been executed."

This work, *inter alia*, describes and illustrates 64 obverse and 3 reverse sides of Royal Burgh Seals.

IV. *Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Scottish Seals, Royal, Baronial, Ecclesiastical, and Municipal* (Vol. i. embracing a period from A.D. 1094 to the Commonwealth. Vol. ii. embracing the period from 1150 to the Eighteenth Century (Supplemental). Taken from original Charters and other Deeds preserved in Public and Private Archives, by Henry Laing, Edinburgh, 1850 and 1866.

This work, *inter alia*, describes 49 obverse and 5 reverse sides of Royal Burgh Seals, of which 8 of the obverses and the 5 reverses are all illustrated.

V. *The Book of Public Arms*, a Cyclopaedia of the Armorial Bearings, Heraldic Devices, and Seals as authorised and as used of the Counties, Cities, Towns, and Universities of the United Kingdom. Derived from the Official Records compiled and edited by Arthur Charles Fox-Davies, Editor of *Fairbairn's Book of Crests* (revised edition), &c., and M. E. B. Crookes. *Post Nubila Phœbus*. Edinburgh: J. C. & E. C. Jack, Grange Publishing Works, 1894.

This work, *inter alia*, gives 66 obverses, all illustrated, of Royal Burgh Seals.

VI. *Catalogue of Seals in the Department of Manuscripts in the British Museum*, by W. de G. Birch, Assistant in the Dept. of MSS.,—Volume IV. [Scottish Seals], 1895. Printed by Order of the Trustees. References—Laing's Catal., Suppl. Catal., and MS. Catal.; Lewis's Topogr. Dict. of Scotland.

The following comparative table (IV.) gives a list of these first V.

IV. ROYAL BURGHS OF SCOTLAND, SHOWING NUMBER OF SEALS BY VARIOUS AUTHORITIES.

	Edmondson.	Astle.		Lewis.		Laing.		Fox-Davies.	C. S. D.	
		All Illustrated.		Illustrated.				All Illustrated.	All Illustrated.	
		Obv.	Rev.	Obv.	Rev.	Obv.	Rev.	Obverse.	Obv.	Rev.
Aberdeen	1 described	1	1	1		2 both illd.	2	1	6	4
Annan	1 mentioned	...		1		...		1	1	
Anstruther Easter	1 "	...		1		1		1	1	
Anstruther Wester	1 "	...		1		...		1	1	
Aberbrothock (Arbroath)	1 described	...		1		1		1	2	
Ayr . . . . .	...	...		1		1 illd.		1	2	
Banff	1 "	...		1		1		1	4	
Brechin	1 "	...		1		1		1	3	
Burntisland	1 "	...			...	...		1	2	
Campbeltown . . . . .	...	...		1		...		1	1	
Craik	1 mentioned	1	1	1		1		1	2	1
Cullen	1 "	...		1		1		1	1	
Culross	1 described	...		1		1		1	2	
Cupar	1 mentioned	...		1		1		1	4	1
Dingwall	1 "	...		1		1 illd.		1	1	
Dornoch	1 described	...		1		...		1	1	
Dumbarton	1 "	...		1		...		1	2	
Dumfries	1 "	...		1		1		1	6	
Dunbar	1 "	...		1		1		1	2	
Dundee	1 "	1	1	1		1 both illd.	1	1	5	2
Dunfermline	1 "	...		1		1		1	3	2
Dysart	1 "	...		1		...		1	1	
Edinburgh	1 "	...		1		1 both illd.	1	1	8	2
Elgin	1 mentioned	...		1		1		1	2	
Forfar	1 described	...		1		...		1	3	
Forres	1 mentioned	...		1		1		1	4	
Fortrose	1 "	...		1		...		1	1	
Glasgow	1 described	...		1		1 illd.		1	6	1
Haddington	1 "	...		1		1 both illd.	1	1	4	1
Inverberrie (Bervie)	1 "	...		1		...		1	3	
Inveraray	1 mentioned	...		1		...		1	3	
Inverkeithing	1 described	...		1	1	1		1	3	1
Inverness, 1 with Cromarty	1 mentioned	...		1		1		1	6	1
Inverurie	1 "	...		1		...		1	2	

IV. ROYAL BURGHS OF SCOTLAND, SHOWING NUMBER OF SEALS BY VARIOUS AUTHORITIES.—*contd.*

	Edmondson.	Astle.		Lewis.		Laing.		Fox-Davies.	C. S. D.	
		All Illustrated.		Illustrated.				All Illustrated.	All Illustrated.	
		Obv.	Rev.	Obv.	Rev.	Obv.	Rev.	Obverse.	Obv.	Rev.
Irvine	1 described	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	5	2
Jedburgh	1 "	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	4	
Kilrenny	1 "	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	
Kinghorn	1 "	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	
Kintore	1 mentioned	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	
Kirkcaldy	1 described	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	6	1
Kirkcudbright	1 mentioned	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	
Kirkwall	1 "	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	
Lanark	1 described	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	6	
Lauder	1 "	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	
Linlithgow	1 "	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	6	1
Lochmaben	1 mentioned	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	1	
Montrose	1 "	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	3	1
Nairn	1 "	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	
New Galloway	1 "	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	
North Berwick	1 described	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	
Peebles	1 "	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	
Perth	1 "	1	1	1	...	1	...	1	3	1
Pittenweem	1 "	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	
Queensferry	1 "	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	1
Renfrew	1 "	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	
Rothsay	1 mentioned	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	1
Rutherglen	1 "	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	4	1
St Andrews	1 described	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	7	1
Sanquhar	1 "	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	
Selkirk	1 mentioned	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	2	
Stirling	1 described	1	1	1	1	...	...	1	7	1
Stranraer	1 "	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	
Tain	1 "	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	
Whithorn	1 mentioned	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	{ 1 with Wigt'n
Wick	1 "	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1
Wigtown	1 "	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	
Totals	63	5	5	64	3	49	5	66	182	28

authorities, and shows, under their specific headings, the number of Seals, both obverse and reverse, either mentioned, described, or illustrated in their works, and in the last column states the total number of Seals, obverse and reverse, in the volume now exhibited, all of which are illustrated.

There are authorities upon branches of this important subject to which I would simply refer :—

(1) Macgeorge on Glasgow Seals ; (2) Annan on Lanark Seals ; (3) Cramond on Banff Seals ; (4) General Hutton's Manuscript Volume ; (5) Jack's Ordnance Gazetteer (now superseded by Fox-Davies above mentioned),; and (6) Scottish Notes and Queries,—Notes on Seals by Dr Cramond, Cullen, and others.

From the foregoing observations I trust that it will be granted that the incomplete and comparatively meagre information in existence makes it desirable to collect and preserve impressions of all Royal Burgh Seals, (and where possible) with their dates when used ; and that we should emphasise the importance of Royal Burghs only using Seals sanctioned by the Lord Lyon.

It has been a pleasure to me to go over the manuscript volume of Seals now exhibited, and to note in this preliminary way its unique value to members of this Society.

I cannot close without expressing my obligations to the Lord Lyon, to the Agent for the Convention of Royal Burghs, and to Mr C. S. Davidson, the compiler of the manuscript volume, for so kindly supplying me with information, and assisting me to prepare this notice.