



*The diamond signet
of Queen Henrietta Maria*

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70, GROSVENOR STREET,
TO THE QUEEN.

THE
DIAMOND SIGNET
OF
QUEEN HENRIETTA MARIA.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES

BY

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LONDON:
PRINTED BY NICHOLS AND SONS, 25, PARLIAMENT STREET.

1882.

FROM
THE ARCHAEOLOGIA,
VOL. XLVII.

THE DIAMOND SIGNET

OF

QUEEN HENRIETTA MARIA.

It has long been known that King Charles I. of England, some two years or little more after his accession to the throne and marriage with Henrietta Maria, a daughter of France, ordered that a diamond should be engraved with his arms, as a signet, designing it probably for his Queen's private use.

Although such signet has been lost sight of and forgotten, the record still exists of payment made to the artist for executing the work, and from it alone have we hitherto derived that knowledge.

In the privy seal books of the office of the Clerk of the Pells, now in the Public Record Office (No. 11, p. 142), we read the following entry :

Francis Walwyn.

“ Charles, by the Grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c.

“ To the Trēr and Undertrēr of o' Exchecq' for the time being, greeting :

“ Wee doe hereby will and cōmand yo^u out of o' treasure remaining in the Receipt of o' Exchecq' forthwith to pay or cause to be paid vnto Francis Walwyn or his assignes the sōme of two hundred threescore and seven pounds for engraving, pollishing, Dyamond boart^a and divers other materialls for the Cutting and finishing of o' Armes in a Dyamond with the tres of the name of o' deerest Consort the Queene on each side. And these o' tres shal be yo^r sufficient warr' and discharge in this behalfe.

Two hundred three
score and seaven
pounds.

16 January, 1628.^b

“ Given vnder o' privy Seale att o' pallace of Westm' the sixteenth day of January in the fourth yeare of o' Raigene.

“ JO: PACKER.”

^a Boart, *i. e.* diamond dust.

^b *i. e.* 1629 of our present computation.

This entry^a therefore distinctly informs us that on the 16th January, 1628-9, the sum of 267*l.* was paid to one *Francis Walwyn*, a gem-engraver, not otherwise recorded, for cutting, finishing, and polishing a diamond and engraving thereon “*our armes*”—the arms of Charles I.—“*with the letters of the name of our dearest consort the Queen on each side.*” There is no command to engrave “our arms impaled with those of our beloved consort,” but “our arms” alone, except that they are to be laterally accompanied by the initial letters of that royal lady’s name.

In the *Vetusta Monumenta*, Vol. III. Plate 26, No. vii. which illustrates a communication by Astle in 1792, a seal is figured, supposed to be that of Mary Queen of Scots. It is of lozenge shape, and displays a shield bearing, quarterly, 1 and 4, France and England counter-quarterly (1-4 France, 2-3 England), 2, Scotland, 3, Ireland, surmounted by an open crown, and between the letters M. R. This seal was said to be in the French king’s collection at Paris (Louis XVI.), “and,” says Astle, “seems to have been used by Queen Mary during her widowhood, and whilst she asserted her right of succession to the crown of England.”

But Mr. Astle neither tells us his authority for these statements nor names the material on which the arms are cut; he merely gives us the size of the seal and a magnified engraving of its bearings.^b Mr. Laing, in his *Descriptive Catalogue of Scottish Seals* (Edinburgh 1850), did not refer to this signet, and he was right, for it bears the arms of England under the Stuarts, not those of Scotland and France. Astle probably accepted it for Mary’s, believing, as he states, that it might be that used by her during her widowhood. When she was married to the Dauphin “he quartered the arms of England, which gave great offence in that country,” but the Dauphin’s seal, so quartered, would not agree with that described by Astle. The seal figured by him could not have been the diamond signet which Gori tells us (*Hist. Dact.* p. 180) that *Jacobus Thronus* engraved for Queen Mary I. of England, daughter of Henry VIII.; for her shield bore quarterly France and England merely. But whether the signet figured in the *Vetusta Monumenta* was that engraved under order of Charles I. by Francis Walwyn we are not able with certainty to assert, although there is some probability in such an assumption.

For many years past, and perhaps even till the present day, glass copies of a

^a This record was, I believe, first published by Mr. W. H. Carpenter, in his *Pictorial Notices of Vandyke*, 4to, 1844, and subsequently in Mr. Wornum’s edition of *Horace Walpole’s Anecdotes of Painting in England*.

^b Astle’s original drawing is in the Society’s possession.

seal-ring stone have been sold at Holyrood Palace, passing for the signet of Mary Queen of Scots, the original of which is stated to have been in the possession of the Earl of Buchan.

That the signet, of which these vitreous pastes are copies, had existed somewhere and was an original work executed for royal use, there could be but little doubt, but that it could not have belonged to Queen Mary of Scotland was clearly proved by an able paper on the subject, published in the eleventh volume of the *British Archaeological Association's Journal*, at page 76, by Mr. George Vere Irving, who refutes the statement of such a signet ever having been used by that unfortunate Queen. This refutation equally applies to the seal figured by Astle. But Mr. Irving himself falls into error when suggesting the probability of its having belonged to Mary of Modena, the Queen of James II. referring to the fact pointed out by Miss Strickland in her memoir of that amiable and ill-used lady, that many objects which had belonged to her were by some supposed to have, and by others represented as having, belonged to her more renowned namesake, the daughter of James V. of Scotland.

That such attribution was erroneous, Mr. Syer Cuming, in a paper published in the seventeenth volume of the *Journal* of the same *Association*, at page 223, clearly proves, pointing out moreover the all-important fact, probably overlooked by Astle, and certainly by Mr. Vere Irving, that the apparent letter M was not in its simple integrity, but was crossed by a bar between the outer limbs, thereby converting it into a monogram composed of the letters H and M = **HM**, thus bearing its own evidence that neither Mary Stuart, Mary d'Este, nor Mary the Queen of William III. could have been the owner of such a signet. With the names of one Queen only did such a monogram correspond, viz. Henrietta Maria, Queen of the martyred Charles I. True, it had been suggested by some, anxious to connect the relic with Mary of Scotland, that the H might stand for the initial of her husband, Henry Darnley, but that even at that period of her misguided career she should have ventured to use a signet bearing the arms of England with all its quarterings, *pur et simple*, is improbable. In confirmation of his suggestion Mr. Syer Cuming refers to the fifteenth plate in Pinkerton's *Medallic History*, whereon are figured two medalets or counters of 1628, having on one side the Queen Henrietta Maria's armorial shield, bearing England and France impaled, accompanied by a similar monogram; and on the reverse a high tree in a forest, with the motto *SVPEREMINET OMNES*. Curiously enough, Pinkerton states that a counter of Mary of Scotland is known having a similar reverse, but the date, 1628, on the obverse and the arms of Henrietta Maria

are sufficient proof as to whose reign it may be referred. We may therefore reasonably conclude, to use Mr. Cuming's own words, that the "impressions sold at Holyrood Palace as mementos of Scotland's fair Queen were really taken from the signet of the wife of her ill-fated grandson."

It is always difficult to trace every step in the history of objects that have belonged to royal or historical personages, the more so when they lived and died in such troublous times. That the diamond signet was in the hands of the King and Queen in, and probably previous to, 1628[9] is presumable from the fact that payment to Walwyn was ordered by the warrant of January in that year.

Mr. Syer Cuming, in his paper above referred to, alludes to an impossible myth, connecting the stone with Queen Mary of Scotland, that on the scaffold she had given it to Bishop Juxon, with injunction to convey it to her son King James. But Dr. Juxon was then barely five years old. Mr. Cuming however shrewdly suggests that there may be a glimmer of truth in this myth, and that it may, although we have no record of the fact, have been so given by King Charles to Bishop Juxon, who attended him at his execution, and who, it has been said, received the George from his royal master, with instruction to convey it to James the then Duke of York. Whether such were really the case, and whether the stone was ever in the possession of James the Second, we have no positive information, but it is perhaps more probable that it remained in the hands of Henrietta Maria, was taken by her to France, and that sooner or later it was disposed of among other jewels and valuables to meet the necessities of the sadly stricken royal family.^a

Another episode of its history is seemingly met with in the *Book of Travels* by Jean Baptiste Tavernier,^b a diamond merchant and jeweller, who visited Persia in about December 1664, four years previous to the death of Henrietta Maria. At page 484 of his first volume (ch. xvii. of book iv.) he relates that in a conversation with the Nazar of the King of Persia at Ispahan, on piercing diamonds, the King asked whether Tavernier, who had brought a fine jewel for his inspection, thought that in Persia there were not artificers as able at stone-cutting as any in his own country; on which Tavernier, to convince the Nazar of his Majesty's error, "*tirant de ma pochète une bague de diamant où sont gravées les armes du Roy d'Angleterre que je luy montray. Des qu'il l'eut vû il parait surpris,*" &c., &c. The Nazar then took the ornament for which he was nego-

^a A curious statement occurs in a letter of 21 Dec. 1640, from Rosetti to Card. Barberini referring to the poverty of the royal family at that time. He writes, "*ed essi ré e regina erano ridotti ad un segno d'inflicita tale che non havevano da mangiare la mattina sequenti se non impeguavano le gioie.*"

^b Tavernier, J. B., *Voyage en Turquie*. 3 vols. 4to. Paris, 1672—1679.

ciating and the engraved diamond ring to the King, "*pour ce qui est du diamant gravé le Nazar me la raporta et me dit que le Roy s'étoit informé de ce que étoit gravé dessus. Je me contentay de luy apprendre que c'estoient les armes d'un Prince d'Europe sans vouloir rien ajouter davantage, et me souvenant de ce qui étoit arrivé au Chevalier de Reville dont j'ai fait l'histoire au sujet du feu Roy d'Angleterre, dont les armes estoient gravées sur ce diamant.*"

This "*feu Roy d'Angleterre*" in 1664 could have been none other than the unfortunate Charles I. whose unhappy widowed queen was then still living in exile at St. Germain or Colombe; and I am not aware of any record of a similar diamond signet having belonged to King Charles.* It is therefore reasonable to infer that the engraved diamond in Tavernier's possession was, in all probability, that engraved by Charles's order for his Queen.

Nor is it unreasonable to surmise that on Tavernier's return from Persia his engraved diamond may have been acquired by the King of France, and that it may be the same signet as that referred to but inaccurately figured by Astle. The inaccuracies in minor details may have arisen from inattention of the draughtsman or of the copper-plate engraver, working, in all likelihood, from an impression or only from a sketch of the original: hence the absence of the cross-bar to the M, which had also been overlooked by others. The elaboration of the Scottish lion's tail; the foliated head of the harp, and other enrichments, are manifest additions by the artist, who engraved the bearings on a scale nearly five times larger than the lozenge form of the original, which is given alongside. It would have been impossible to execute in *intaglio* upon so small a surface of the gem-stone such detailed ornamentation and finish of the bearings as we see upon Astle's engraved plate.

* Walpole, *Anecdotes of Painting in England*, ed. 1762, ii. 66, ed. 1849, i. 285, states in reference to Charles I.'s jewels: "His George, diamond and seals, which Charles at his execution destined to his successor, the Parliament voted should not be so delivered."

Can this relate to Charles's diamond signet when Prince of Wales, now in the royal collection at Windsor, or to another diamond signet, or merely an ornamental stone?

I find the following memorandum, but the reference has been unfortunately lost from my notes. Either the attribution or the date 1661 must be erroneous:

"*Mem*: The impression of a signet of King Charles I. (or Charles II.?) of somewhat coarse workmanship, but evidently cut on a hard stone, occurs upon a letter addressed by him to Cardinal Azzolini on the 7th October, 1661. It is similar in general style, the royal arms surmounted by the crown and between the letters C and R, but whether cut upon a diamond we do not know, nor have I been able to examine the impression."

N.B.—For a record (discovered since the above was in type) of a similar diamond signet having belonged to Charles I., see Postscript.

Whichever may have been the signet in the French King's possession it would doubtless have been cast abroad at the period of the Great Revolution. No such ring or seal is now to be found entered in the catalogue of the collection at the Bibliothèque, nor is it at the Louvre.

We hear nothing more of such a stone until the vitreous paste seals are sold at Holyrood as copies from a signet attributed (but wrongly, as we have shown) to Mary of Scotland, which original is stated to be "from the collection of the late Earl of Buchan." That such a relic should have come into the hands of such staunch adherents to the Stuart cause as were the members of the Erskine family is not surprising, and might be equally probable whether it had been retained by the Queen in her exile or had been conveyed by Dr. Juxon to James Duke of York, or had passed through the hands of Tavernier the travelling diamond merchant, or subsequently had belonged to the royal family of France.

In the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford is a shrunken impression in red wax, evidently taken from a cast of the diamond; this impression is entered in the printed catalogue of 1826—three years before the old Earl of Buchan's death—and its accompanying label states that it is an "Impression from the diamond signet-ring worn by Mary Queen of Scots," &c., &c.

There is no record whence this impression came, but it and its label are evidence that it was taken from the diamond in or before 1826, agreeing with the glass copies of the Earl of Buchan's signet sold at Holyrood as far back as 1843, when and where the original, described as "The signet-ring of Mary Queen of Scots, from the collection of the late Earl of Buchan," was exhibited. It will be borne in mind that the record for payment was not made public by Mr. Carpenter till 1844.

The Earl to whom this stone belonged was David Stewart, eleventh Earl of Buchan (sixth Earl of the Erskine family), who was born in 1742, and, retiring from public life, lived latterly, devoting himself to literary and scientific pursuits, for many years at Dryburgh Abbey, with Sir David and Lady Erskine; he was a Fellow of the Royal and of our Society, and he died at the age of eighty-seven in 1829.* By the courtesy of the Dowager Countess of Buchan (widow of his nephew and successor) I am informed that "the eccentric Earl David," to quote her words, possessed several objects of great interest and value which were lost sight of after his death. She further informed me that Cardinal Wiseman once

* See a biographical notice in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, obituary, vol. xcix. part 2, p. 75.

had a supposed "signet of Queen Mary of Scotland," but "how he got it could never be ascertained, nor do I know where it went to on his decease."

This, although but hearsay, would seem to partially corroborate a statement made in a footnote to Mr. Syer Cuming's paper, viz. that he had been informed by Mr. Vere Irving that the original signet was in the possession of Dr., afterwards Cardinal, Wiseman, "who purchased it at the recent sale of the effects of the Earl of Buchan." When and where this sale took place I have not been able to ascertain, nor is the diamond mentioned in the Earl David's will. It is stated in Mr. Cuming's communication to have once belonged to a Mr. Fielder.

I have been since informed that the signet-ring which was in Cardinal Wiseman's possession was given to his late Eminence by the Misses Nutt, who unfortunately had the stone smartly reset in a modern ring. This was believed to be the one which had been in the collection of the Earl of Buchan, but the stone was, apparently, a ruby not a diamond, and could not therefore have been the stone under consideration. It is now in the possession of His Eminence Cardinal Manning.

Feeling assured that so interesting a relic could hardly have been lost, I had been for some years anxious to trace its whereabouts; and on the death of the late Duke of Brunswick it occurred to me as probable that such a stone might have found its way into that Duke's collection. On procuring a catalogue of the jewels sold at public auction by order of the "Conseil Administratif de la Ville de Genève" I could find no such entry; but on putting myself in communication with the then vice-president of that body, M. Turrettini, I learnt to my great joy that a diamond engraved with the royal arms of England, and supposed to be the signet of Mary Queen of Scots, as also a sapphire ring with nearly similar intaglio, were among the objects reserved from the Duke's collection. I was further enabled, through his courtesy and that of MM. Rossel, the experts charged with the sale, to examine it minutely in juxtaposition with one of the glass copies of the Earl of Buchan's signet, and with the following result. The size of the engraving on the diamond is in all respects larger, by a minute degree, than the vitreous paste, precisely as might be expected from the shrinking of the mould; every minute detail and touch of the graving tool is exactly represented on the glass copy; in short, that the glass was cast in a mould formed upon the diamond of the Brunswick collection there could not be the slightest doubt.

Convinced that I had found the long-lost diamond of the record, I next ascertained that its acquisition was possible. After a wearisome correspondence,

broken off for a year or two and resumed, having satisfied the authorities of Geneva that it was not Queen Mary's, but not having informed them as to whom this costly signet had belonged, I succeeded in negotiating for its purchase.* I was unable to ascertain from those who had been in the Duke's service, or were intimately associated with him, at what time or from whence he had made the acquisition of this stone, but I have since been informed that it was purchased some fifteen or twenty years since, at a sale of jewels in Messrs. Christie and Manson's rooms by one Van Prague, an agent, who disposed of it to Mr. L. M. Rothschild, a diamond merchant; by him it was transmitted to his correspondent at Paris, Mr. Levenson, also a diamond merchant, by whom it was sold to the Duke of Brunswick.

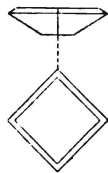


Fig. 1.

The mounting, as a ring, is modern, made, it is supposed, by the Duke's orders, who purchased the stone unset. It is in poor taste and not of choice workmanship, having the letters M. R., the crown, the thistle, and the fleur-de-lis in enamelled relief, designed doubtless under the idea that it was Queen Mary's signet. The diamond is tabular, of considerable size, as may be seen by the accompanying woodcut (fig. 1); its face is a slightly irregular square, which from the arrangement of the intaglio becomes a nearly equilateral lozenge;^b although not of the finest water, it is a stone of good lustre and colour. The intaglio is worked with careful accuracy rather than with any attempt at artistic effect, which in fact would have hardly been possible; it must have been a work of patient labour. The shield is entirely sunk and flat, its bearings being thereon incised in still deeper intaglio; it is of simple form, charged with the royal bearings of the

* The following is a copy of the letter received from MM. Rossel et fils :

“ Nous déclarons avoir vendu a Monsieur C. Drury Fortnum une bague un diamant gravé aux armes royales d'Angleterre avec corps émaillé et certifions que cette dite bague faisait partie de la collection leguée à la Ville de Genève par feu S. A. R. le Duc de Brunswick.

“ Genève, le 6 janvier, 1879.

“ (Signed) ROSSEL ET FILS.

“ Experts nommés par la Ville de Genève et chargés de la vente aux enchères publiques des diamants, bijoux, joyaux, &c. dépendant de la succession de S. A. R. le feu Duc de Brunswick.”

^b The true and heraldic lozenge is somewhat longer in its perpendicular than in its horizontal diameter, measuring from the angles; when much elongated it becomes a “fusil”: but the square so transposed becomes a lozenge in the general acceptance of that term, although it remains rectangular.

Stuart dynasty, viz. : Quarterly, 1 and 4, England (counter-quarterly, France and England); 2, Ireland; 3, Scotland. On the dexter side of the shield is the monogram of the two letters H and M, on the sinister the letter R. An open crown, that of the Queen, surmounts the shield; its form differs materially from the King's close or cushioned crown, as represented upon the steel and gold signet-ring in the private collection at Windsor Castle* (see fig. 2).



Fig. 2.

It is perhaps curious that the stone should have been detached from its original setting in a ring—if it ever had such a setting—but this may be accounted for by the troublous times and hard circumstances which the members of the Stuart family and their adherents had to endure, and which might have rendered such a step advisable for facility of concealment, or for transmission for sale. That it had been so disposed of and replaced by a copy on a less costly stone might seem from the fact, that in Mr. Franks' collection is a ring, the stone of which, a white topaz, is engraved with a similar intaglio, evidently intended to be copied from the diamond, but differing in various details. Thus the shield is more concave in the intaglio, not flat as is that upon the diamond; it is somewhat smaller and its sides more rounded; the crown differs materially in detail, but the M has the crossbar to indicate the H. The cutting on the stone is seemingly in its general character more recent than that of the diamond; it is in a simple setting of gold evidently made for it, but which would hardly be of earlier date than the last century. When and wherefore this incised copy—which might have been executed from an impression of the diamond—was made, we cannot say. Other stones and pastes are known on which a nearly-resembling shield and crown are incised between the letters M—without the crossbar—and R, to the consideration of some of which I propose presently to recur.

It would have been satisfactory had I been able to discover among the letters of the unfortunate Henrietta Maria one or more on which was the impress of this diamond signet; but hitherto I have not been so fortunate. Not many of such letters have the seals attached, and, indeed, it becomes a question whether the Queen would have been allowed, surrounded as she was by jealousies on every side, and not being queen by right, frequently to use a signet on which the royal arms of England only are engraved, without impalement of her own. This some-

* *Archaeologia*, XLV. 26.

what singular omission is, however, in strict accordance with the record for Walwyn's payment, in which "o' armes in a dyamond with the tres of the name of o' deerest consort the queene" are the words distinctly descriptive of the stone before us, but without allusion to an impalement of the Queen's coat.* The Queen would hardly venture, or be advised, to use such a signet except merely on some few of her most private correspondence during the earlier years of her unhappy reign. It probably was used as an ornament only, which was graced while adorning that high-born lady's hand. After her flight to France and the execution of her royal husband, she would hardly have sealed with other signets than those bearing the impalement of her paternal arms of France, as offence might easily have been given to those whose protection she sought, had she sealed with the arms of England alone.

The following seals occur on letters written or signed by that Queen. Among the many preserved in the Barberini Library at Rome I noted two of 1625, probably anterior to her marriage, which are sealed with the arms of France, three fleurs-de-lis in a lozenge surmounted by an open crown. Another, without date, is sealed with two intertwined C's, crowned, in an oval. Another seal has a monogram of the three letters, H, M, A, combined, in a shield with open crown above. But the greater number bear one or other of the two seals generally found upon her letters, viz., a smaller and a larger one having a shield bearing the arms of England in dexter impalement with those of France, surmounted by the Queen's crown, but no initials. By the kindness of Mr. Coxe, the librarian, I learn that these are the seals generally found on her letters preserved in the Bodleian, with this variation,—those used before the death of Charles are surrounded by a wreath or garland; after his death the wreath is replaced by a twisted cord. Laing, p. 19, No. 76, gives one of these as being surrounded by love knots, on a letter in the Seaford collection.

Among the impressions of seals preserved in our library we have the larger one with wreath border, of 1649, and one of equal size with the knotted cord springing from the crown; also a smaller one on which the arms of France are impaled with a shield semée with pellets, perhaps Medici, and having at the sides a monogram of the letters H and M and the letter R. This, however, cannot have been Henrietta Maria, but may with greater probability be a seal of Marie de Medici.

* Another reason for this omission may have been the difficulty of executing so many bearings as the impaled coats required, on so small a space and so hard a material.

On the Queen's great seal, of which impressions are in the British Museum, her Majesty is represented in regal costume, seated beneath a canopy, holding the sceptre in her right and the orb in her left hand; on her right is a shield of the arms of England, on her left those of France, each surmounted by a crown. The reverse bears her arms in a lozenge: Per pale, England and France impaling Navarre, the supporters being a lion on the dexter, and an angel, whose drapery is semée with fleurs-de-lis, on the sinister side.

This was doubtless the work of Nicholas Briott, the King's graver, who was ordered by warrant of 6th September, 1626 (Records: *State Papers, Domestic, Ch. I.* p. 573), to execute the King's Great Seal in silver.

Although so able as a medallist and worker in metal, it would seem, however, that Briott was not a gem-engraver, as Francis Walwyn was employed to cut the diamond signet for the Queen.

In the private collection of gems and jewels at Windsor Castle * is the diamond signet-ring used by Charles I. when Prince of Wales, No. 141^b (fig. 3). Walwyn's skill in engraving upon the diamond must have been established and well known, or he would hardly have been entrusted with the execution of Queen Henrietta Maria's signet. It seems to me therefore reasonable to infer that he had previously worked for the court, and that Prince Charles's signet is also a specimen of his handicraft. In both cases the intaglio is executed with neatness and precision rather than with any show of artistic power; but it is interesting to know that among the gem-engravers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries who have acquired renown by their skilful work in intaglio upon so intractable a material, at least one Englishman can be named whose work is known to us. It seems to have been a fashion in those days among persons of high rank, and wealth sufficient to expend in such costly baubles, to use the diamond as a stone for engraving with their monograms or armorial insignia. This probably commenced in Italy, where *Jacopo da Trezzo* or *Clemente Birago* are said, one or other, to have devised means of working in intaglio upon this hard but easily splintered substance. Philip II. had such an armorial signet, the work of *Treccia* or *Trezzo*, Mary I. of England one by *Jacobus Thronus*.

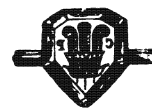


Fig. 3.

* I would here wish to correct a typographical error in my paper at p. 25 of vol. XLV. of *Archaeologia*, where, under No. 98, "The seal of King Charles I. when Prince of Wales," the letters C R seem to have been printed in error for C P. Also on the next page, line 20, the word "sculptors" is printed in lieu of "scalptors."

^b *Vide Archaeologia*, XLV. 26.

Birago cut a portrait of Don Carlos and the Spanish arms upon a diamond. The signet with crowned monogram of Mary of Modena, Queen of James II., is another instance. This is referred to by Miss Strickland as "her royal cypher M. R. interlaced;"^a but she does not notice that the letter J also is united to the M in the monogram. This may possibly have been the espousal ring of Mary d'Este, which was set with a diamond.



Fig. 4.

"One little diamond seal" is mentioned among the objects belonging to King James II. at his death, which was "in the present King's possession," *i. e.*, his son "James III." the Pretender, when the Inventory was made.^b

Few, however, of such engraved diamonds are known in collections. Some are, I believe, preserved in the Imperial Cabinet at St. Petersburg.

In the Uffizi at Florence there are five, four of which are signets, *viz.* a large stone engraved with the crowned arms of Portugal; a small oblong square stone with a monogram of M and C and coronet above; that of Catherine de Medici: another with the Medici shield crowned; and a small one with shield of arms and coronet. But the only one of real artistic merit is a large stone of indifferent colour and lustre on which the head of Socrates is deeply and effectively incised.

The eminent jewellers, Messrs. Hunt and Roskell, had a diamond on which a head in profile is cut in intaglio, evidently intended for a portrait. Can this be the portrait of Don Carlos by *Birago*?

I have alluded to other ring-stones on which the royal arms of England, without impalement, are engraved between the letters M (without cross-bar) and R. Of such no less than five or six are known, all of which probably, as Mr. Perceval notes, "have done duty for Mary Queen of Scots." Impressions of three of these are in our Society's library, and are labelled:

1. "Belonged to Col. Maclean."
2. "Original in possession of the Rev. J. C. Edwards, of Trentham."
3. "Electro of an impression of a ring said to be in possession of a pawnbroker of Carnaby Market."

All these are of lozenge form, sharp at the angles.

That in the possession of Cardinal Manning, if not identical with one of these, may be a fourth.

^a *Lives of the Queens of England*, 1846, vol. ix. p. 297. The Society of Antiquaries begs to thank Messrs. George Bell and Sons, the present proprietors of that work, for their courtesy in supplying the plate of Mary of Modena's signet. H. S. M.

^b *Archaeologia*, xviii. 236.

A fifth is the so-called sapphire of the Duke of Brunswick's collection, which was to be ceded by the Municipality of Geneva to the family of the Duke, together with the onyx vase, portrait miniatures, &c. This is also of lozenge form, with the angles taken off, and is larger than any of the others. I have been assured by two diamond merchants that it is not a real stone but coloured glass only.

By the same parties I have been informed that the Duke had, what he believed to be, Queen Mary of Scots' signet-ring, but that the original stone was replaced by a copy; that on his purchasing the engraved diamond he had the copy (may be one of these so-called sapphires) taken out and the diamond inserted in its place, believing that the gold work of the ring was genuine. It is quite possible that the modern setting in which we now see the diamond, and which, by its ornamentation, has evidently been made to pass for Queen Mary of Scot's ring, is a forgery in which perhaps the so-called sapphire was set, and which had been palmed upon the Duke by some nefarious dealer; that he, still believing the setting to be genuine, had, on his purchase of the engraved diamond from another quarter, caused the blue glass to be taken out and the diamond inserted in its place, they being of approximate size. This would account for the recent tooling now seen upon the bezil.

I think it more than probable that some, at least, of those seal-ring stones, impressions of which are in our library, are also forgeries which have been got up for sale as the hapless Queen Mary's signet.

There is yet another, the sixth of our list, which deserves more consideration. It is a ring belonging to Miss Hartshorne, a notice of which occurs in the eighteenth volume of the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, at p. 277, 26 February, 1862. It is of gold, enamelled, and set with a sapphire of inferior colour and of oval form, thus differing from all the others, as it does also in the form of the crown and other details. The shield has the same bearings, and is between the letters M without cross-bar (the "faint trace of a transverse stroke" being purely accidental) and R. On each shoulder of the hoop is a "rose brilliant," or, according to Mr. Soden Smith, the rose of England in coloured enamel. This ring was also exhibited at the Loan Exhibition of Ancient, &c. Jewellery, held at the South Kensington Museum in 1872 (No. 936, catalogue), and described by its owner "the signet-ring of Henrietta Maria," believed to be the council seal for the Queen's Majesty, "made by warrant of 6th September, 1626."

But on reference to the Records (see p. 11) I find that the warrant dated 6th September, 1626 is "to give order unto His Majesty's graver" (Nicholas

Briott) "for ye making of a great seald of silver and a privj seald and signett of gould and a counsell seald of silver for ye Queen's Ma^{tie} according to such patterns as shall be sent unto them," &c. There is nothing of an engraved sapphire signet-ring.

Miss Hartshorne, in her interesting volume entitled *Enshrined Hearts*, at page 328, states that, mistakes having arisen in the use of her name, Henriette, the King commanded that she should be called "Queen Mary," and that at her marriage she wore "a magnificent signet ring, a sapphire engraved with the royal arms and the letters M R," referring to this ring which was then in the possession of the Bishop of Ely. Miss Hartshorne gives no authority for these statements, nor do her references and inferences in respect to this ring seem quite convincing. Moreover, it is hardly probable that the Queen elect would have dropped the initial of her first name, Henriette, in anticipation of its being misunderstood by the English.

Whichever may be genuine—as I believe Miss Hartshorne's to be—of these M. R. signets, we may feel assured that they were not made for Mary I. for Mary of Scotland, nor for Henrietta Maria. It has been suggested that Mary of Modena, the Queen of James II. may have been the owner, but she could not have used the arms of England, *pur et simple*, while Duchess of York, nor for twelve years after her marriage; and it is hardly likely, surrounded by jealous enemies as she was on coming to the throne, that she would have repeated the heraldic omission that we see on Henrietta Maria's diamond, and exposed herself to unnecessary blame. On her private correspondence she frequently used her diamond monogrammatic signet, another nearly similar, of which we have an impression in the Society's library; and for more public use, that with the arms of England in dexter impalement with those of Este and Ferrara. I believe that we shall be nearer the truth in ascribing these signets (when genuine) as for the use of Mary II. the Queen of William, who alone of these Queens could correctly use the royal armorial. Such a signet might well be needed when her husband, absent at the wars, had left the throne—her's by right of birth—entirely to her keeping. Such might have been Miss Hartshorne's ring, and by comparison we find that the form of the crown on it differs materially from that on Henrietta Maria's diamond, agreeing rather with what we see on seals which closed some of Mary II.'s letters. Such of those letters as are preserved in the Record Office are sealed, some with a profile head, others with a somewhat loosely-contrived monogram of W and M, the letter R being on each outer limb of the W, with a crown above supported by two cupids; or a smaller monogram composed by a

letter M, each outer limb of which is formed into an R; a cornucopia, whence emerges a cupid, being on either side, and a crown surmounting.

I regret that I have been prevented from continuing a search among the letters of those royal ladies for impressions of the engraved diamond used by Henrietta Maria, and also of the sapphire armorial signet (of which she may possibly have had more than one), which I believe was engraved for the use of Queen Mary II. consort of William III. Such impressions may exist, and it is hoped that the present notice may direct the attention of those who can more conveniently refer to letters preserved in public and private libraries, with the view to discovering seals impressed by these signets.

POSTSCRIPT.

KING CHARLES'S DIAMOND SIGNET.

Since the foregoing was set up in type, the following interesting information has been kindly afforded me by our Director, Mr. H. S. Milman. On reference to page 5, and the footnote there, it will be inferred that some suspicion existed in my mind of a diamond signet having been used by the King, but of which I knew no record. In fact there is evidence pointing to two diamonds engraved with the arms of King Charles I. for use as signets, the King's and the Queen's, each bearing also the appropriate initials.

Our Director informs me that the earliest notice of the King's diamond signet is to be found in Wood's *Athenæ Oxonienses*, under the life of Thomas Herbert, the devoted attendant of the King, who was created a baronet at the Restoration. Wood states that he received from Sir Thomas an account of the King's last days, and relates, from this account, that the King came to Windsor just before Christmas day, 1648, and that while he was at Windsor the following incident occurred:

“ One night, as the King was preparing to go to bed, he wound up both his watches, as his custom was, one being gold the other silver, and missing *his Diamond Seal, a Table that had the King's Arms cut with great curiosity, and fix'd to the Gold Watch by a Gold Chain*, he could not imagine when or where he dropt it, yet thought that he had it the day before when he looked upon his watch as he walked upon the long Tarras. At length, after Mr. Herbert had made great search for it in the walks that his Majesty frequented, but in vain, his Majesty the next night descried it sparkling at one end of his chamber by the help of the charcole fire and the wax lights then burning in the said chamber.”

Wood further states on the same authority that at Whitehall, on the 29th of January, 1648-9, the King gave to his children, the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Gloucester, "all his jewels save the George he wore."

We thus trace the King's diamond signet as probably in the possession of his children upon the date last mentioned.

The impression upon the letter to Cardinal Azzolini must have been from this signet.

We seem to meet either with this same signet, or with that of the Queen, set in a ring, in the hands of Tavernier in 1664.

Finally, we find a statement in Mr. Palmer's MS. Life of Dr. Baldwin Hamey, jun., preserved in the Library of the College of Physicians, that on the Restoration, Dr. Hamey presented to the King a valuable relic of Charles I., a diamond ring, on which were curiously cut the arms of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, and which had cost the Doctor 500*l.* (Dr. Munk's *Roll of the College of Physicians*, "Baldwin Hamey, Jun., M.D.")

Seeing that the King's diamond signet was set in a handle, was worn attached by a gold chain to his gold watch, and was retained by him until his death, we may reasonably presume the same facts of the Queen's diamond signet. The Queen lived until 1669. The minute account of her latter days given by Miss Strickland throws no light on the fate of her diamond signet.

The "one little diamond seal" belonging to King James II. at his death may have been either his father's signet or his mother's signet—the latter, if his father's had already been set in a ring.

King Charles I.'s diamond, which (together with his George, Garter, and two seals) was seized after his death by the Parliament, and the transmission of which to his son was refused by their order (Journals of the House of Commons, 31st Jan. 1648-9), was probably faceted, but not engraved; and worn as an ornament on the hat-band.

There can be no doubt, first, that the diamond signet engraved by Walwyn and long lost to sight reappeared at Edinburgh in the present century and was the original of the glass signets sold there; secondly, that the impression now in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford and that engraved in *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.* xi. 76, xvii. 223, are from that signet (original or copy); thirdly, that it was sold at Messrs. Christie and Manson's about twenty years ago; and, lastly, that it is the stone now under consideration.

FURTHER NOTICE
 OF THE
 DIAMOND SIGNET OF QUEEN HENRIETTA MARIA,
 OF THE
 KING'S DIAMOND,
 AND OF THE
 SAPPHIRE SIGNET
 BELIEVED TO BE THAT OF MARY, QUEEN OF WILLIAM THE THIRD.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES
 BY
 C. DRURY E. FORTNUM, V.P.S.A.



WESTMINSTER :
 PRINTED BY NICHOLS AND SONS, 25, PARLIAMENT STREET.
 1887.

FROM
THE ARCHAEOLOGIA,
VOL. L.

SOME FURTHER NOTICE OF THE DIAMOND SIGNET OF
HENRIETTA MARIA, QUEEN OF CHARLES I. &c.

ON the 20th November, 1880, I had the honour of exhibiting to the Society at their meeting the diamond signet, engraved by order of King Charles I., with "o^r Armes" and with the "ires of the name of o^r deerest Consort the Queene on each side," and of reading some descriptive and other notes on this interesting historical relic.

In those notes I endeavoured, as much as possible, to record all the facts I was then able to gather touching the history of this costly gem—the record for the payment in 1628 (o.s.) of £267^a to Francis Walwyn for his workmanship thereon, still existing in the Public Record Office. These notes were published in *Archaeologia*, Vol. XLVII. p. 393.

Through the kind communication of my friend Mr. Albert Hartshorne, one of our Fellows, I am now enabled to offer some additional and interesting facts in the signet's history.

"On casually looking over some letters from Douce to my grandfather," he writes, "my eye caught sight of the sketch of the diamond signet. I think the extracts I am now tempted to send you will, if they do no more, fill up a gap in its history."

Extract from a letter from Francis Douce to Thomas Kerrich :—

Charlotte Street, 16th June, 1817.

. "Your comparison to your father's seal prompts me to mention a seal of a different kind that has been the subject of much conversation

^a Equal to nearly £1,100 of present value.

among some of the antiquaries and virtuosos, and still remains an unsolved enigma. It is a diamond signet ring said to have belonged to Mary Queen of Scots. It is to be sold by auction next week for whatever it will fetch, having been already more than once bought in. When I say a diamond signet I mean that it bears the arms of France and England in the 1 and 4 quarters, those of Scotland in the 2nd, and of Ireland in the 3rd, engraved on a table diamond."

From the same to the same (Extract).

" 20th June, 1817.

"Curiosity led me yesterday of the M. Q. Scots diamond ring that I mentioned in my last. After a Christean historical flourish from Rapin and Henault, it was knocked down to the happy purchaser for 86 guineas; the diamond being worth about 10 of them. In the mean time and before I wrote my last I had discovered that this signet was that of Queen Henrietta Maria. The letters which I then purposely gave you as **M . R** as they had been seen by the inspectors of the ring, stood actually thus **M R**.^a The cross stroke for the **H**^b is certainly not visible to common eyes unassisted by a glass, but it is as much there as my pen is now in my hand. I have a duplicate impression, which I would have inclosed in this letter but for the double postage. So much then for this seal. I must however tell you that on the impression I have of Lord Buchan's seal, and which he swears by all that is holy was that of Mary Q. of Scots, the cross stroke is not to be found. I find there is also another in the Signet Office at Edinburgh, of which the late Mr. Edwards's lady, who supposes herself a model of the Scottish Queen, has procured an impression and caused a seal to be cut from it, with which she seals

^a By an unfortunate error at p. 395 of my former paper this monogram was wrongly printed **M** instead of **M** as it is seen on the diamond.

^b This monogram occurs on a silver *jetton* in the possession of the President of our Society. On it two shields are represented conjunctly and beneath one royal crown; on the dexter are the Arms of England; on the sinister are those of France; beneath is the barred **M** crowned, on either side of which is a laurel spray. The surrounding legend reads **HENR · MAR · BORBON · D. G. MAG · BRIT · FRAN · ET · HIB · REG.**

On the reverse a flowering tree—a rose?—is represented rising and spreading above cypress, cedar, laurel, and other trees; the sea, on which are ships, is seen in the distance. The motto surrounding **SVPEREMINET · OMNES** . explains this device.

This *jetton* is referred to by Mr. Syer Cuming as figured in Pinkerton's *Medallic History*, plate 15, and noted in my former paper at page 395.

her letters. What if these should turn out to be the signet of Mary the wife of William III.? for if they do not the difficulty about the arms remains. I will probe this matter to the bottom and examine, if there be any, the seals on the letters of the 3 maries."

These letters help materially to fill in the *hiatus* of the signet's history between the time of Astle's paper in 1792, where he states, "this seal is in the French king's collection at Paris," and the exhibition at Holyrood in 1843. By them we have direct evidence of the engraved diamond being sold by auction in June 1817, some twelve years previous to Earl David Buchan's death, who then, it would seem, was still in possession of a signet which he persisted in believing to be that of Queen Mary. Unfortunately, no mention is made of the form and ornamentation of the mounting of the diamond, more than Douce's statement, that it was "a diamond signet ring" in "gold setting;" and, what is still more to be regretted, the material of that other signet, then in Earl Buchan's possession, is not stated. In regard to the latter we have, however, the evidence of a letter from Monsignore Searle (communicated to me by Dr. Munk), that the signet formerly belonging to Cardinal Wiseman was a "ruby;" that it was given to the Cardinal by the Misses Nutt; and was that formerly in the possession of Earl Buchan.

Dr. Munk writes:—

"40, Finsbury Square, E.C.

"Dec. 6th, 1880.

"MY DEAR SIR,

"My friend, Mons. Searle, for many years private secretary to the late Cardinal Wiseman, writes to me as follows:—

"At as early a moment as possible I reply to your inquiries about the signet ring.

"The one that was in Cardinal Wiseman's possession was given to his late eminence by the Misses Nutt,* and, thinking to make the present "nicer," they had the stone removed from its setting, and reset as a modern ring. This was the one in the collection of the late Earl of Buchan, and was a *ruby*, not a *diamond*; it is still in the possession of the Cardinal of Westminster.

"In the summer of 1843 I was in Edinburgh, and saw, among the treasures of Holyrood, the "signet ring of Mary Queen of Scots, from the collection of the

* Purchased for them, as I have since learned, by a person named Harris, their brother's tutor. (C. D. E. F.)

late Earl of Buchan;" and facsimiles of the seal in glass were sold to the tourists at the palace. I bought one, and with the then purchase seal this letter, as well as enclose another impression. When in Cardinal Wiseman's collection it was shown to Mr. Turnbull of Edinburgh, who called attention to the cypher H.M. blended **M** and said it was the cypher of Henrietta Maria Queen of Charles I. *Some time* before Cardinal Wiseman's death Mr. E. Waterton, the ring collector, called on me and said he wished for my assistance to find out *who* had got the signet ring in question, he having ascertained from the dealers in antiques, &c. that it had passed into the hands of some Catholic ladies, and that there his information ceased. I answered him by going up stairs and bringing him down the relic; and by assuring him that it was not to be added to his collection. So much for the history of the ring, as known to myself."

"Mons. Searle adds, in a P.S. in reference it will be seen to the ring in your possession and the glass copies of it:

"The exhibition of the original at Holy Rood in 1843 can be readily ascertained; my facsimile was bought there, and has never been out of my possession."

"These particulars will doubtless interest you. They show that your signet was not in the Cardinal's possession; but that it was at Holy Rood in 1843, and that it, or its glass facsimile, was recognised years ago as pertaining to Henrietta Maria.

" Believe me,

" Yours very truly,

" Drury Fortnum, Esq., F.S.A.,
&c. &c."

" W. MUNK.

It would thus appear that in 1817 there were two signets; one then in Lord Buchan's hands, and believed to be the "ruby" given subsequently to Cardinal Wiseman; and the diamond sold by auction under Mr. Douce's eye. That keen antiquary in his second letter says, he will "probe this matter to the bottom;" and Mr. Hartshorne, having in his possession much of Douce's correspondence with Mr. Kerrich, kindly took the trouble to look through it, but, unfortunately, found "no further mention of the seal."

The Douce papers at Oxford are chiefly historical MSS.; of his private correspondence there is none, and I am indebted to my friend Mr. Arthur Evans for looking them over and vainly searching for further information. It would appear, however, from Mr. Douce's will, "that his note books and other MS. collections, presumably containing his private letters, were left to the British

Museum, in a chest to be opened in the year 1900." In that chest, therefore, it is not unlikely that the result of his further research in the matter, if ever made, may be preserved.

The question immediately arises, what was the signet possessed by Lord Buchan, if it were not this diamond? and how came it that the glass copies sold at Holyrood, as made from that in the late earl's collection, correspond so accurately with the diamond signet which is the main subject of our inquiry?

It is a curious fact that, although the Earl of Buchan was the original founder and ardent supporter of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, a liberal donor of objects to their museum, and a constant contributor to their proceedings, no mention is to be found in the volumes of *Archæologia Scotica*, from its commencement to the notice of his death, of the signet in his possession which he believed to be that of Queen Mary, and which we are led to believe was exhibited at Holyrood in 1843, and which, it is said, subsequently passed into the hands of Cardinal Wiseman.

By the courteous permission of His Eminence Cardinal Manning, in whose keeping, at the archbishop's house at Westminster, the reputed ruby signet, presented by the Misses Nutt to the late Cardinal Wiseman, now remains, I have had an opportunity of carefully examining it, in company with Professor A. H. Church. There can be no doubt that it is a copy in red glass taken from Henrietta Maria's diamond. The intaglio is poor, and evidently moulded, the cross-bar of the **M** being but weakly indicated, though unquestionably there; in fact, it is a red replica of one of the Holyrood pastes, set in a heavy, plain, man's ring.

This examination removes one pretender to the royal line of those we thought might be original and rival signets. Our diamond and Miss Hartshorne's sapphire yet remain.

It seems to me probable that some of the glass copies of the diamond had been taken long before its sale by auction in 1817.* That of these earlier glass copies one, of red colour, had been imposed upon Lord Buchan, who believed that he had acquired Queen Mary's signet. If so, it may well have been that exhibited in 1843, after his death, and casts taken from it would yield glass copies equal in sharpness to those sold to visitors at Holyrood.

* Tassie, the well-known maker of glass pastes from the antique, &c. may have been the author of some of these. In 1783 he made a cameo portrait of the Earl of Buchan.

It is stated that one Bulters, an old engraver at Edinburgh, was the producer of some of the copies engraved on hard stones.

We may also presume that Douce, although possessing a (perhaps imperfect) impression, had not, at the time he wrote those letters, had an opportunity of examining Lord Buchan's seal-ring, or, if it were really that subsequently acquired by the Misses Nutt, so shrewd an observer could hardly have passed it as a real stone.

It is also possible that the hearsay evidence of the enamelled gold setting of the diamond having been made for the Duke of Brunswick is incorrect, and that it may have been sold in that setting in 1817, for Douce and the catalogue both state it was a diamond signet-ring, and of gold. This setting was evidently made to enhance its interest and value by bearing the initials and emblems of the Scottish queen.

To return to our history. Acting upon Douce's information as to date, on making inquiry of Messrs. Christie, Manson, and Woods, at whose house it seemed probable that the signet had been sold, with their courteous assistance, I have had the satisfaction of finding the sale Catalogue of the 19th June, 1817, in which the diamond is fully described, but wrongly attributed to Mary Queen of Scots.

The following is a copy of the Catalogue title and of the description of the lot :—

A Catalogue
Of the following valuable articles
viz^t
The original diamond signet ring
of
Mary Queen of Scots
Engraved with the arms of England
Scotland and Ireland quartered
as also
A few Books and prints
of the late
Barrington Pope Blachford Esq^{re}.
which will be sold by Auction
(by order of the Executors) by
Mr. Christie
at his great room Pall mall
on Thursday 19 June 1817
at three o'clock.

Lot 7. The original diamond ring of Mary Queen of Scots upon which are engraved the arms of England Scotland and Ireland quartered, and of which the following well-authenticated history

was communicated by that correct and learned antiquary the late Richard Gough Esqr. as cited in letter from — Brooke Esqr. to Miss Martha Browne which will be delivered to the purchaser.

“That it descended from Mary to her grandchild Charles I. who gave it on the scaffold to Arch Bishop Juxon for his son Charles II. who in his troubles pawned it in Holland for £300 where it was bought by Governor Yale and sold at his sale for £320 supposed for the Pretender. Afterwards it came into possession of the Earl of Ilay, Duke of Argyle & probably from him to M^r Blachford.

“This seal-ring appears to have furnished evidence that was fatal to Mary Queen of Scots.”

[Bought by Dr. Curry, 90*l.* 6*s.*]

The signet was purchased by a Dr. Curry, probably James Curry, M.D., born at Antrim, 13th September, 1784. He was a licentiate of the College of Physicians of London and physician to Guy's Hospital. He died on 26th November, 1819.

It was probably sold again at Christie's after Dr. Curry's death, and then bought, as stated in my former paper, by one Van Prague.

I may here record two other seal-stones, or pastes, which have not been before referred to, having the royal arms between the letters **M** and **R**, with the cross-bar to the first letter.

A signet-ring set in gold, belonging to the Rev. W. Bentinck Hawkins. On this the cutting is flat, evidently copied, but differing in the form of the crown and otherwise from the diamond, apparently on hard stone (crystal or white topaz?). The **M** is barred. The form of the shield also differs from Mr. Franks', on which the cutting is more concave.

Another, seemingly engraved on a crystal (?) foiled to resemble sapphire, and adapted to a setting of the later years of the last century, was sold by auction at Messrs. Sotheby's, on 14th April, 1885 (Lot 101), for 5*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

The correct attribution of our diamond signet by Mr. Douce to Henrietta Maria,^a and the suggestion, so long since as in 1817, that the signets on which the **M** occurs without the cross bar may have been those of Queen Mary II., the wife of William III., are remarkably corroborative of the conclusions to which I had come and which were expressed in my former paper.

It is further remarkable that he refers to another seal in the Signet Office at

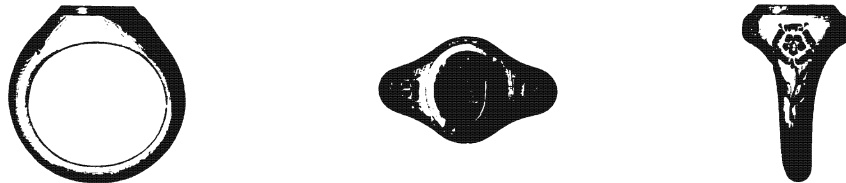
^a On a letter of instructions to Mr. Denham, 10th May, 1649, Henrietta Maria signs in a monogram formed of the letter M, with R on the last limb, and crossed by a bar to form the H. *Mus. Brit. Jure Emptionis* 19,399, fo. 72.

Edinburgh, which was copied by her wish for a certain vain lady, Mrs. Edwards, to use as a seal.

Of those signets on which the letter **M** is without the cross-bar, Miss Hartshorne's beautiful ring has every claim to originality as a royal signet, not of Mary Queen of Scots, nor of Henrietta Maria, but, probably, of Mary the Queen of William III.

Of massive fine gold, a half-round hoop, widening to the bezel, on which is a table sapphire of oval form and pale colour, slightly raised, and with faceted back; the shoulders are decorated with a rose of England on its leafy stem, worked in intaglio on the metal, and which has been filled in with enamel, now only showing traces, red on the flower, green on the leaves. The fashion and ornamentation of the ring would almost point to an earlier period than the style of the heraldry engraved would corroborate; there is no doubt however that it is the original setting. Incised on the sapphire is the royal shield between the letters **M**, (without the cross-bar,) and **R**, surmounted by the Queen's open crown.

Could this be the ring referred to by Douce in his letter as being then at the office of the Signet in Edinburgh?*



Gold signet ring of Mary, queen of William III., in the possession of Miss Hartshorne (full size.)

It is a curious circumstance that almost at the very time when Mr. Hartshorne communicated Douce's letter to me, he purchased, by mere chance, at a jeweller's in Vigo Street, an elegant gold seal set with a red carnelian, engraved with the royal arms, the **M** and **R**; of careful workmanship and of the earlier years of this century.

It is no strain of probability to suggest that this seal may be the copy made by order of the vain Mrs. Edwards from an impression of that in the Signet Office. The cutting is concave, the tinctures indicated by incised lines, the only example

* Up to 1815 there was a Secretary of State for Scotland, who had possession of the Great Seal, &c. &c. When that office was abolished the clerks (who were lawyers) formed themselves into the "Signet." The Scotch regalia, hidden till 1818, was then placed in the regalia room.

I have seen, and suggesting carefully executed work to order, rather than one made for chance sale; the **M** is without the cross-bar.

Among these imitations or copies, perhaps the most manifest forgery that has come under my observation is one which was foisted upon its present owner, Sir Richard Wallace, under the veil of charity. It is a seal formed of carnelian, of elongated quadrilateral baluster shape; on the square face of one end, placed lozenge-wise, is the royal shield between the plain **M** and **R**, surmounted by the crown; at the other end, on a face of oval form, is the Thistle. Both are deeply incised in a manner clearly indicative of modern work, and the seal was evidently made to be that passed for the seal of the unfortunate Queen Mary.

KING CHARLES' DIAMOND SIGNET.

On searching among the letters written by Charles, when Prince of Wales and when King, which are preserved in the British Museum among the Harleian, Lansdowne, Egerton, and other MSS., some of which are of comparatively recent acquisition, I have been fortunate enough to find a wax impression of the princes' diamond signet, which is preserved among the Queen's private collection of gems at Windsor Castle, and which was figured and described by me in *Archaeologia*, Vol. XLV., p. 26, and again referred to and figured in my former paper on the Henrietta Maria diamond. With it he sealed a letter addressed to his father, King James I., beginning "Dear dad and gossope,"—the wax impression on which is well preserved. There is no date to this letter.

Some of the letters from King Charles I. are sealed with a signet, which I think there is every reason to believe must have been that "diamond seal cut with great curiosity, and fix'd to the Gold Watch by a Gold Chain," referred to by Mr. Herbert as having been temporarily lost by the King at Windsor.*

One is a letter to the Earl of Newcastle, dated Oxford, 28 April, 1643. (Harley 6988, fo. 135.) This is sealed with red wax; the impression from a signet of lozenge form, bearing the royal shield between the initial letters C and R. The cutting is very similar in character to that on the queen's, Henrietta Maria, diamond, and is probably the workmanship of the same hand, that of Francis Walwyn, who is recorded as the artist employed by King Charles to cut the signet for his queen. In size it is about similar; the



Diamond signet of King Charles I. from an impression in the British Museum (full size).

* See my former paper, *Archaeologia*, XLVII. p. 407.

form of the shield is somewhat more square, having longer straight sides; the crown differs in form, the surmounting orb and cross being held by four supporting bands which spring from behind the fleurs-de-lis on the circlet or coronal.

This seal occurs again on Harley 6988, fo. 194, with the king's initials.

Again: two impressions on the outside of a letter addressed, "For Mr. Nicholas, one of the Clarkes of my Englishe Councell." (Egerton MS. 2546, fo. 31.)

Again, it is found on a letter from Carisbrook Castle to General Fairfax (Egerton 2618, fo. 21-22), dated 26 Nov. 1647; and on one of the next day's date from Carisbrook to Fairfax. (Egerton 2618, fo. 23-24.)

I have caused a cast to be taken from this, the king's seal, by Mr. Ready, that it may be compared with impressions from the queen's diamond.

Another extremely interesting fact was revealed by an examination of the numerous royal letters in the British Museum, viz. that the same signet was subsequently used, and is to be seen on several of the letters written by Charles II.* thereby, in part, corroborating the curious statement in Mr. Palmer's MS. Life of Dr. Baldwin Hamley (see the last page of my former paper), who had presented to Charles II. "on the restoration, a diamond ring on which were curiously cut the arms of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland; and which had cost the doctor 500*l.*"

That part of Gough's statement that King Charles I., when on the scaffold, gave it (a diamond signet) to Bishop Juxon for his son Charles II. is corroborated by its impressions being found on the letters of both those sovereigns. In my former paper, at p. 396, I showed that Mr. Syer Cuming had alluded to an impossible myth, connecting it with Mary Queen of Scots; and in Mr. Gough's "well-authenticated history," as quoted in the sale catalogue description of the diamond sold at Christie's in 1817, it is referred to as the signet so given by King Charles I., whereas there can be no doubt that the king gave his own diamond signet, which we find used by him on his letters, and afterwards by Charles II., and was doubtless that temporarily lost by the former when at Windsor in 1648 (p. 407).

The following letters, written by Charles II. are sealed with this his father's signet:—

* Some of the letters published by the Marquis of Bristol in the *Camden Miscellany*, vol. v. 1864, are sealed with the same signet, an engraving of which, with fac-simile of the autograph, are given.

Lansdowne Royal, &c. Letters, 1236, fo. 114, written from Collen, Aug. 6,
 "to the Queen of Bohemia," "my dearest Aunt."

Do. do. 1236, fo. 116.—Letter from Bruges, 15 June,
 1656.—"For my dear cousin, Prince Rupert."

Do. do. fo. 124.—Letter "For the Chancelour,"
 describing his Queen on his wedding-day, 21 May, 1662.

Do. do. fo. 130.—To the same, 25 May.

Do. do. fo. 142.—To the Duke of York.

Do. do. fo. 158.—To Prince Rupert, 1673.

Do. do. fo. 199.—To Prince Rupert, 12 May.

Do. do. fo. 201.

Do. do. fo. 223.—26 August. to Prince Rupert.

Royal Letters, &c., 18738, fo. 37.—To his sister, 11 September.

The letter dated from Bruges of the 15th June, 1656, a few years before the restoration, written and addressed to Prince Rupert, "Deare Cousin," in Charles II.'s own handwriting, and being sealed on the same sheet of paper with this same signet, would show that if that was the stone given by Dr. Hamey, some error or omission must have occurred as to the date of its presentation to Charles II.; and, further, that the diamond then given is stated to have been in a *ring*, and not a *seal*, in which form it was set when in the possession of Charles I. Unfortunately, the initials are not mentioned.

Charles II.
landed in
England.

From the time, 29th January, 1648-9, when the king (Charles I.) gave to his children, the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Gloucester, "all his jewels save the George he wore,"* this precious seal would doubtless have been treasured by one or other member or friend of the family, to be restored to the elder son of the royal house at the time of his probable restoration.

Is it not possible, however, that before the restoration of Charles II. the king's diamond may have been deposited as security for some loan of money, which he so much needed immediately before his embarkation for England,^b and that the loyal Dr. Hamey may have redeemed the pledge for 500*l.*, as stated, presenting it to his royal master on his restoration or accession?

* This George, worked in cameo on a superb onyx, is now in the possession of the Duke of Wellington.

^b In the *Edinburgh Evening Courant* of 16th June, 1817, is a copy of a letter written by Charles II. from Brussels, 28th May, 1658, borrowing 50*l.*, sealed with an oval (? lozenge) about three-eighths of an inch long.

We may, from these impressions on the letters, conclude that King Charles I.'s diamond signet, used by him, was also subsequently in the possession of and used by Charles II. from 1656 to 1673 and onward; and that, therefore, the diamond engraved with the royal arms of England, which was in Tavernier's hands in Persia in 1664, could not have been the king's, but may, with greater probability, have been the queen's, Henrietta Maria, signet, as previously suggested. Although then living, that unhappy queen was reduced to great want, having first pledged some of her jewels, &c. and subsequently sold everything she possessed.^a

^a In the *Memoire de Madame de Motteville* (Camden Miscellany, vol. viii. p. 23), we read: "*Elle mit toutes ses pièreries en gage, et de cet argent,*" &c. and again, p. 27, "*Nous luy avons veu vendre toutes ses hardes l'une après l'autre, ces meubles et le reste de ses pièreries, et engager jusques aux moindres choses pour pouvoir subsister quelques jours de plus.*"

POSTSCRIPT.

15th June, 1886.

During a recent visit to Vienna I was enabled, by the kindness of Dr. Friedrich Kenner, the courteous and learned director of the Imperial Cabinet of Antiques at the Hofburg in that city, to examine more minutely and to enjoy more thoroughly many of the choicer objects preserved in that rich collection.

My attention was, naturally—from my interest in the subject—directed to any engraved diamonds that might be found among the many gems of the *renaissance* and more recent time; and I was rewarded in my search by finding two, one of which is of English historical interest.

The less important is a small, high table diamond, on the face of which a double-headed eagle, not crowned, is incised in a somewhat scratchy manner of shallow *intaglio*. It is set in a small gold ring, the bezel and shoulders of which are enriched with black enamel. It is probably of the early seventeenth century, and is numbered 134.

The other is a diamond of irregular quadrate form, faceted on the sides, but having a tabular face, on which a profile male head is deeply cut, but of indifferent execution; it shows that the material was too obdurate for the sculptor's power of manipulation; and, although the general form of the bust is fairly rendered, the features are but ill defined. The bust faces to the left, in the impression (which I send herewith), and is between letters difficult to define, but which may be intended for the Greek Π and Δ , and possibly the initials of the person's name who is represented in the *intaglio*.

It was on turning the ring that I discovered its chief interest; for at the back of the bezel, painted in enamel on the gold, on a ground of turquoise colour, the plume of three white ostrich feathers and the well-known motto of a Prince of Wales are represented between the initial letters **C.** and **P.**

c

The feathers are tied and shaded in dark blue; the motto **ICH . DIEN** is in gold letters, on a dark blue ribbon. The ring is small, a simple hoop enamelled dark blue upon the shoulders; the stone, held in silver casing, is backed by the enamelled gold bezel.

There can be no doubt that this ring belonged either to the unhappy Charles I. when Prince of Wales, or perhaps, but with less probability, to his son; the fashion of rings not varying sufficiently during the intervening period to mark with certainty the former or the later date. I should, however, be disposed to think that the *intaglio* on the diamond may be of earlier execution than its setting in a ring.

It has no history in the octavo Catalogue of Antiques, &c., in the Imperial Cabinet prepared by the late Baron von Sacken and the present able director, Dr. F. Kenner, in 1866, in which it is described merely as a diamond engraved with a head in *intaglio*. Its number is 141.

Whether the original owner was the luckless first Charles, as is more probable, or his son, or, indeed, both—for it may well have passed from the former to the latter in his youth—this ring is interesting as another relic of the royal Stuarts, and notice of it and of the other engraved diamond may form a not unworthy *addendum* to my last paper on the Henrietta Maria signet.

Observations upon a presumed Nuptial Ring of Mary Queen of Scots ; in a Letter to the President, from Sir Henry Ellis, Secretary.

From the ARCHÆOLOGIA, Vol. XXXIII. pp. 354—358.

British Museum, January 3, 1850.

Jan. 3, 1850. MY LORD,—Early in the last Session of our Society, when the Seal-Ring which bore the Arms of Mary Queen of Scots was exhibited by Mr. Green, I felt convinced that diligent inquiry would throw more light upon its history than Mr. Green possessed, and probably would identify it either as an affiancing, or what was still more probable, as a bridal ring of the unhappy Queen. It was evidently made for a female finger. In my own belief I took it for what it certainly now appears to have been ; her nuptial ring.

In explaining the ground of this opinion it will not be beside my purpose to detail the several forms in which, at different periods of Mary's reign, she carried the Scottish Arms.

From 1542 to 1558 Mary Queen of Scots bore the Arms of Scotland alone; the lion within the tressure. On her marriage with Francis the Dauphin of France in 1558, she bore quarterly of France and Dauphiné impaling Scotland.

In the same year, after the accession of Elizabeth to the English throne, Henry the Second of France caused his son and Mary to assume the titles of King and Queen of Scotland, England, and Ireland, and to take the Arms of England. This was done by them ; and at the marriage of Elizabeth of France with Philip II. the Dauphin and Mary bore on their caroches, their household furniture, and their heralds' tabards, the Arms in this manner, Quarterly, 1 and 4, also quarterly of France and Dauphiny ; 2 and 3 Scotland. On an escutcheon of pretence France and England quarterly. The whole dimidiated by, Quarterly 1 and 4 Scotland ; 2 and 3 France and England quarterly.

This came to the knowledge of and gave offence to Elizabeth and Burghley ; and Burghley obtained a copy of the Arms so used, which copy is now in the British Museum. It is endorsed by Burghley, "False Armes of Scotl. Fr. Engl. Julii, 1559."

The following doggrel lines are underneath the Arms :

" The Armes of Marie Quene Dolphines of France
The nobillest Ladie in earth for till advance
Off Scotland Quene, and of Inghland also,
Off Ireland als God haith providit so."

(MS. Cotton. Calig. B. x. fol. 13.)

The offence, it is clear, was in the escutcheon, which was afterwards discarded by Francis and Mary on their accession to the throne of France upon the death of Henry II.

As Queen-Consort of France, Mary bore France and Scotland quarterly.

After the death of Francis, in Dec. 1560, as Queen Dowager of France, she bore, France dimidiated by the whole Coat of Scotland, a form which she continued until her marriage in 1565 with Darnley, when she discarded France, and bore her own Coat of Scotland alone.

The Ring now shown is probably the earliest instance of this,



and she continued the practice until her death.

In the Library of the British Museum, however, among the books which formerly belonged to King George the Third, there is a small folio entitled "The Actis and Constitutiounis of the Realme of Scotland maid in Parliamentis haldin be the rycht excellent, hie and mychtie Princeis Kingis James the First, Secund, Thrid, Feird, Fyft, and in tyme of Marie now Queene of Scottis, viseit, correctit, and extractit furth of the Registers be the Lordis depute be hir Maiesteis speciall Commissione theirt. Anno Do. 1566." Below this title is a wood-cut of the Scottish Arms exactly as upon the Ring, except that instead of M. R. upon small labels above the unicorns' heads, are the words MARIA REGINA. The cover of this book has the same Arms in gold and colours as in the enamel of the Ring; and there can be little doubt, from its extreme elegance and cost in the binding, that this was the identical copy of the Scottish Statutes presented to the Queen at the time. The Arms are on both sides of the book. It was formerly in the possession of Mr. John Ratcliffe, a memorable collector of black-letter, at the sale of whose library in 1776 it was purchased for that of King George the Third.

I now come to the Monogram within the Ring.



That the Ring was intended as a Seal-Ring cannot be doubted; and in the hope of finding some letter bearing its impression, after fruitlessly examining our own collections in the British Museum, I repaired to the State Paper Office, where, with the kind assistance of Mr. Lechmere and Mr. Lemon, I was allowed to turn over the Scottish Correspondence, but with as little profit, as far as the Seals to Letters were concerned, as I had found in the Museum.

At last, however, we fell upon a letter which I think I may say amazed our curiosity. It presented the Monogram which ornaments the underpart of Mr. Green's Ring within the hoop, in the hand-writing of Mary Queen of Scots herself.

The letter is in French, entirely in Mary's hand, and has been printed by Prince Alexander Labanoff, who, being unaware of the riddle contained in the flourished Cypher which follows her signature, passed it without notice.

The following is a translation of the letter, accompanied by a fac-simile Tracing of the Signature and its attendant Cypher.

"Madam my good Sister, the wish which I have to omit nothing that could testify to you how much I desire not to be distant from your good favour, or to give you occasion to suspect me from my actions to be less attached to you than, my good Sister, I am, does not permit me to defer longer the sending to you the bearer, Master of my Requests, to inform you further of my good will to embrace all means which are reasonable, no to give you occasion to be to me other than you have been hitherto; and relying on the sufficiency of the bearer, I will kiss your hands, praying God that he will keep you, Madam my good sister, in health, and a happy and long life. From St. John's Town, this 15th of June.

"Your very affectionate and faithful
good Sister and Cousin,

MARIE R.


"To the Queen of England,
Madam my good Sister
and Cousin."

The letter is indorsed,

"Q. of Scotts to
the Q. Ma^{ty}
by Mr. John Hay."

And by Lord Burghley, "15 Junij,
1565."

Here is the Tracing of the Signature and Cypher obligingly supplied to me by Mr. Lemon.

*Votre tres affectionne & fidele
bonne seur & cousine MARIE R. *

The Monogram both here and within the hoop of Mr. Green's ring is identical; and is clearly formed of the letters M and A.

The comparison of the two gives countenance to the opinion that the written Monogram was intended for Elizabeth and Burghley to study; the subsequent creation of the title of Duke of Albany in Lord Darnley ultimately opening their eyes to the enigma.

It will not be inappropriate to mention here the harsh and uncourtly manner in which Elizabeth had caused Mary to be traduced.

The instructions to Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, dated 24th April, 1565, partly intended "to procure the sayd Queen to be content to accept the Earl of Leicestre, or some such other forreyn prince as shall be agreable to her honor:" at all events if he found it a desperate and impossible purpose to dissolve the intention of the marriage, to offer that her title should be proclaimed next heir if she had the Earl of Leicester.

He was instructed then to mention the rumours and unseemly reports that had been spread.

"And when you shall see it convenient to declare what the rumors ar, yow may declare how it is reported by the L. Darly's frends, that she hath so far proceded in love of the Lord Darlye, as he being sick of the mezells, which is an infectiouse dissease, she cold not be perswaded to tarry from hym, but attended uppon hym with as much dilligence and care as any cold. Ye, and that she so much desyred to procede in marriadg with hym as, if others had not bene scrupoloss and fearfull to assist the same, she had bene affyed to him, with sundry such fond tales, to signefy hir earnest affection towards hym."

Lyddyngton had denied the truth of these reports; but still Elizabeth repeated them.

On the 18th of June 1565, previous to the arrival of Mary's letter, Elizabeth had herself written to her to say, that for divers causes she had sent her express commandment to the Earl of Lenox and his eldest son Henry Lord Darnley, being her subjects, to make their return without delay into this her realm of England.

That the conjectured explanation of Queen Mary's Monogram being sent as an enigma to Queen Elizabeth is no mere hypothesis, will, I think, appear from the circumstance that Randolph, in a letter to Lord Burghley, of 21st July, says, "Though in the banes he be titled Duke of Albanie, I here nothyng of his creation." Douglas's Peerage gives the day preceding the date of this letter, the 20th of July, as that of Darnley's advancement to the dukedom. The Cypher in reality appears to have communicated Mary's concealed intention on June 15th.

Randolph, whose letter is above quoted, was in correspondence with Queen Elizabeth herself as well as with her Minister. As early as the 16th of July, he addressed the following letter to his Sovereign, the original of which is in the State Paper Office, announcing a private marriage of Queen Mary twelve days previous to the public ceremony.

The following is a transcript of it:—

"May it please your Majestie,

"In a matter whear of I had no greate certeyntie, I wrote to Sir Nicolas Throckmorton as then I was informed, desyeringe him to let your Majestie knowe the same, which nowe I have tried that then it was false, but nowe truste that I may write it with better assurance.

"Vpon Mundaye laste, the ix of this instante, this Q. was married secretlie in her own palace to the L. Darlie, not above vii persons present, and wente that daye to their bedde to the L. Seton's howse. This is knowne by one of the prestes that were present at the masse. If this be trewe, your Ma^{tie} seethe howe her promes is kepte; and by this your Ma^{tie} may measure the reste of her doynge, and unfaynedlie I do believe that your Majestie shall finde mo fayer wordes then good meaninge.

"I will not troble your Majestie with the answer of that whiche laste I received from your Highenes, but have written the same to Mr. Secretarie, and also what is desyered at your Ma^{ties}

handes by suche here as are moste at your Maties devotion, which I dowte not but shall greatlie tend to the honour of God, and your Maties renoume for ever.

“At Edenbourge the xvj Julie, 1565.

“Your Maties moste humble and
obedient Servant,

“To the Quen’s Ma^{te}
my Souereigne.”

THO. RANDOLPHE.”

I have no further to add than that at the same time with the Ring, by the kindness of W. D. Haggard, Esq., F.S.A., I am enabled to exhibit one of the Marriage Medals of Mary and Darnley, struck at this time.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,
Your Lordship’s faithful Servant,

HENRY ELLIS.

Windsor Castle
March 21 1887

Dear Sir
I am commanded
by The Queen to
assure you that
Her Majesty is very
sensible of your
kindness in offering

1887.

Times.

COURT CIRCULAR.

WINDSOR CASTLE, MARCH 24.

The Queen went out this morning, accompanied by her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice.

Colonel W. S. Jervis was in command of the 1st Volunteer Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment; Major R. Warner Brooks commanded the 1st Worcestershire Artillery Volunteer guard of honour mounted at King Edward's Schools, New-street; and Major W. C. Alston commanded the squadron of Warwickshire Yeomanry Cavalry which followed in the Royal procession on the occasion of Her Majesty's visit to Birmingham yesterday.

Mr. Drury Fortnum, of Stannore, had the honour of an audience of Her Majesty to-day, and presented the Queen with the engraved diamond signet of Henrietta Maria, Queen of Charles I.

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, MARCH 24.

Prince Charles of Denmark, attended by Captain Uldahl, left Marlborough House this morning to rejoin his ship, the Jylland, at Southampton.

The Duke and Duchess of Teck and Princess Victoria and Prince Francis of Teck visited the Princess of Wales to-day, and remained to luncheon.

(From "The Lady's Pictorial.")

Her Majesty was graciously pleased to receive a beautiful archaeological present the other day at the hands of Mr. Drury Fortnum, of Stannore, who had the honour of an audience of the Queen, and presented the Monarch with the engraved diamond signet of Henrietta Maria, the Queen of Charles the First. For a painter to receive some personal relic of a dead master in his art, or for any of us to acquire something historically connected with a person in our own walk of life, is always interesting. I can quite imagine that the Queen must have been moved by many conflicting thoughts as she handled so important a portion of the personal possessions of the illustrious Queen of the unhappy Martyr King, who, whatever his faults or his failings, died like a brave gentleman.

THE ENGRAVED SIGNET OF QUEEN HENRIETTA MARIA.—Among the many jubilee gifts received by Her Majesty, few are more interesting than the engraved signet ring of Henrietta Maria, presented to her by Mr. Drury Fortnum, F.S.A., the well-known antiquary and connoisseur. That such a ring had been made for the unfortunate Queen was proved by the entry in the Privy Seal books of the Clerk of the Pells, now in the Public Record Office, where a warrant of Charles I., dated January 16, 1628, orders the payment of £267 to one Francis Walwyn, "for the cutting and finishing of the arms of England upon a diamond, with the initials of the Queen on either side." Tradition also pointed to the existence of such a signet ring at a later date; it was believed to have been in the possession of Tavernier, the well-known French diamond merchant, whose travels in Turkey and Persia are celebrated; and it was known that a ring of the same description had been in the Earl of Buchan's collection, where it passed for that of Mary Queen of Scots. Copies of it in paste were extant. At last it occurred to Mr. Fortnum to inquire whether it had by chance come into the hands of the late Duke of Brunswick, who, as will be remembered, left his wonderful collection of jewels to the town of Geneva. There, sure enough, he found it; and after a long correspondence he bought it, and presented it a few weeks ago to Queen Victoria. It is now included in the Royal collection at Windsor, where it lies side by side with the fine steel and gold signet of King Charles. We may add that Mr. Fortnum contributed an elaborate history of the signet, and of other Royal rings, to the "Journal of the Society of Antiquaries" in 1882.

Times. 30th July. 1887.

THE BRUNSWICK LEGACY.—By advices from Geneva we learn that the validity of the late Duke Charles's bequest to that city has been settled in its favour after several months of negotiation between the Commissioners deputed on behalf of the Municipality and the official representatives of the reigning Duke, the heir-at-law of the deceased. The city, having obtained by firm resistance to all threats of legal action a final acknowledgment in writing of the goodness of its general claims to the property, has agreed to surrender, as heirlooms of the house of Brunswick, the famous onyx Mantua vase and the Mary Stuart sapphire ring. These were officially handed over a few days since to Dr. Riegel, deputed by the Duke to receive them as his personal agent at Geneva. At the same time the German Consul, Herr Brodhaag, signed on behalf of his Highness a convention, in which he withdrew his supposed claims to the rest of the personal property of his deceased brother, estimated as likely to realize about 650,000*l.*—*Globe.*

THE REGALIA OF KING CHARLES I.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—Mr. J. C. Robinson's very interesting letter in *The Times* of the 17th inst., on the subject of the Crown plate, jewels, &c., dispersed by and for the purposes of King Charles I. in the years 1625 and 1628, induced me to look out the following passage, which I came upon some time ago while consulting, for an artistic purpose, the miscellaneous manuscripts of George Vertue, the engraver, in the British Museum.

The extract, telling the fate of the actual Royal Crown, sceptres, &c., in 1649, and showing that they were at last destroyed, and by Parliament order, may afford an interesting supplement to Mr. Robinson's letter.

The reference is to British Museum, manuscripts No. 19,027, pp. 37 *et seq.* Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM LEWERY BLACKLEY.

North Waltham Rectory, Micheldever, Hants, Jan. 25.

"Extract.

"(See a private account, April 21, 1748).

"Tower of London, 1649 (Upper Jewell House).

"The jewels and plate belonging to King Charles ye 1st, delivered to be melted down.

"Many Jewells, golden and christal, ambers, aggats, &c.

"King's crowns, queen's, and scepters.

"The Imperial Crown of gold, weighing 7lb. 6oz. (gold), valued £280; precious stones, many; one blew saphire, £50; a ditto, £30; value stones in all, £198; 232 pearles, at 10s., £174; four rubies, £20; in all, 58 rubies, £165; two emeralds and 28 diamonds, £168; total, £990; produced when sold, £1,001 10s. 6d.

"The Queen's Crown, weighing 3lb. 10½oz., gold, valued £136, besides the stones, saphires, rubies, and pearles, valued £201. In another smaller crown for the Queen, one diamond, valued £200.

"The Globe, weighing 11b. 5½oz., at £3 6s. per ounce, £57 10s. All this gold was sold to the Mint to be coyned, and many more, as is mentioned in eight following pages.

"Queen Edith's Crown, formerly thought to be of massy gold, but upon tryall found to be silver gilt. Enriched with garnets, fowles (?), pearles, saphyrs, and some odd stones. Altogether weighing 50½oz. Altogether valued at £16.

"King Elfred's crown of gold wireworke, sett with slight stones and two little bells, weighing 79½ ounces, valued £248.

"A Dove of Gold, sett with stones and pearles, 8½oz. of silver gilt, val. £26.

"Two Scepters, set with pearles and pretious stones, val. £65 19s. 7d.

"According to order of Parliament, all these are broken and defaced.

"Delivered to Sir John Wellaston, &c., by order of the Councell of State, to be coyned. A silver scale, called the Dutchy Scale, val. £8.

Paris le 18 Mars 1888.

Monsieur et honnre' confus,
Combien je suis confus d'avoir
tant tardé à vous remercier de
l'excellente et intéressante notice
que vous m'avez envoyée. Sa
découverte que vous avez faite
de la somme payée pour la gravure
de votre précieux diamant ajoute
encore à sa valeur historique
et nous à sa valeur vénale. Vous
êtes bien honoré d'avoir une

Bombay June 22

1887

Dear Sir
I am much obliged
to you for sending
me the author's account
papers which we
have read with great
interest.
Yours faithfully
Richmond Gordon

31, Grosvenor Square.
Lond.

April 17

Dear Mr Portman

I have read your
description of St. Thomas's
system with the greatest
interest as I take an
interest not only in
improving on previous studies
but also on Stewart

Edmund Atten

My dear Mr Portman

a man considering &
a thing in a perfectly
trough of work for
having so long pursued
in ~~the~~ ~~the~~ you are
your very interesting
I hope in the future
Worship's efforts
Mr Portman's
A/14 Bury St

ENGLISH LAPIDARIES.

Mr. C. D. E. Fortnum, of Great Stanmore, writing on the subject of the leading article in Monday's *Daily Telegraph*, with reference to the jeweller's art in England, and Mr. Chamberlain's recent statement to the jewellers of Birmingham that the lapidary's art was mainly executed by foreign hands, particularly the cutting and polishing of the diamond, and the still more difficult task of engraving on that adamant material, observes: "Great judgment, the result of long experience, is requisite in directing the cleaving and cutting of the precious stone to the greatest advantage, in reference to the form of the rough piece; the execution of the faceting and polishing is more mechanical. Engraving thereon in intaglio or cameo is quite another art, and few have been those sculptors who have had the patience and dexterity requisite for so difficult a work. Of these, the Italian gem engravers of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries—as Trezzo, Birago, and some others unrecorded—seem to have led the way. But the diamond engraved with the Royal arms of England, to which your leader refers, and, as I believe, used as a signet by Charles I. when King, as well as that on which the feathers, the motto 'Ich dien,' and the initials 'C. P.' his signet ring when Prince of Wales, were the work of (as I believe) an Englishman; as was also the diamond signet executed by that King's order for his 'dearest consort,' Henrietta Maria. These, as I have endeavoured to show, were the work of Francis Walwyn, whose name is made known to us by the order of payment for the cutting and engraving of the last of these stones. The original of this order, dated Jan. 18, 1628, is still preserved in the Record Office; by it we learn that for 'the cutting and finishing of our Armes in a Dymond, with letters of the name of our dearest Consort the Queene on each side,' he was ordered to be paid the sum of £267, equal to nearly £1,200 of present money value. Of these three diamond signets, that used when Charles was Prince is mounted in an enamelled gold ring of the time, and is preserved in the private collection of gems at Windsor Castle. The King's diamond has not been traced, but impressions, as I believe from it, are on some of his letters in the British Museum. The signet diamond engraved for the Queen, Henrietta Maria—which had been supposed that of Mary Queen of Scots, from wrong reading of the monogram, the united letters H and M for M only—I was fortunate enough to secure from among the precious stones bequeathed by the late Duke of Brunswick to the Municipality of Geneva; it was presented by me to her Majesty the Queen, who graciously honoured me by accepting it at my hands; it is now preserved in the same Royal private collection at Windsor Castle, an historical object of no mean interest. From the similarity of workmanship I conclude that all three were by the same Francis Walwyn. In Vol. XLVII. of the 'Archæologia of the Society of Antiquaries,' at page 393, and in Vol. L. of the same work, at page 104, will be found a full description, and, as far as can be, history of these three diamond signets engraved for the use of King Charles I. and his Queen, Henrietta Maria. It seems to have been the fashion, in those and still earlier days, among the wealthy and the powerful, to use this hard, yet brittle and most costly, stone for engraving in intaglio with their monograms or armorials. Philip II. had one by Jacopo da Trezzo, Mary of England also, Mary of Modena, and Mary of the Medici. Clemente Birago worked on diamond; but such costly baubles must of necessity be rare. In the collection of gems at the Uffizii at Florence there are five, one having a bust of Socrates remarkably well executed, and one, engraved, but badly, with a portrait head, belonged to the late Mr. Hope. Charles I. seems to have taken much interest in this tedious and unsatisfactory application of the gem engraver's art, for, in addition to the three signets referred to, the writer found, among the rings in the Imperial collection at Vienna, one which bears an irregular quadrate diamond, on the tabular face of which a male head is deeply, but not very artistically, incised. On turning the ring at the back of the bezel are seen the ostrich feathers, the motto, and the initials 'C. P.' painted in enamel. It doubtless had belonged to the unhappy Charles when Prince."



ENGRAVING A DIAMOND.

BY

EDWARD H. RENTON.



With the Author's
Compliments

British Museum,
W.C. April 11. 1887.

My dear Fortnum

I shall be very glad to see you
but I am very far from well, so
you can perhaps see with I
should not be sorry. I went to
Potters for a walk & have returned
to catch a bad cold, which has
surprised me & I think has the
last three days. Tomorrow I
intend to go into the City, which

STATION, ASBOURNE (5 MILES)
TELEGRAPH, PARKICH (2 MILES)

BRADBOURNE HALL,
WIRKSWORTH,
DERBY.

Sept 14. 1890

Dear Mr Fortnum

Being unable to interest
you in the story of your
travels on the Diamond
I must beg you are
very interesting and
you have undoubtedly
its unprincipled history
with some of the parties
and whole of the world.
The history, too, of the
with some things and

WINDSOR CASTLE

July 4 1890

Dear Sir:

I replaced your first
ship by the second you
sent and have given
the book to the Empress
Frederick who desires
the best thanks to be
returned to you for this
book which she will



