

surfaces tell the same tale, as they are not found on seals after c. A.D. 1135-40. The form of the legend, its early type of Roman capitals with the rude uncial G, the open E, and above all the reversed N (N) all point to a date in the first half of the twelfth century, but even if this is considered too early I do not think it is possible to date it later than c. A.D. 1150, so that, if I am right, it yet remains, by some quarter of a century, the earliest-known seal of an English town. The earliest impression now on record is Michaelmas A.D. 1233,¹ the earliest one now extant is attached to a deed of A.D. 1308.² It continued in regular use for close upon five hundred years, being 'lost at the storminge of the Towne'³ by the Scots on 19th October 1644, when all the archives of the town perished with it.

Hangman's Stones.—In a communication to *Notes and Queries*, 15 July 1922, our Fellow Mr. O. G. S. Crawford gives a descriptive list of all known instances in England and Wales (19 entries), and suggests that the name was due to a gibbet in the immediate neighbourhood. He finds that the stones are frequently on high ground at the junction of three or more parishes and old trackways; and in three cases open-air courts are known to have been held on the spot. It was customary to hang those convicted of sheep-stealing and similar offences immediately sentence was delivered, and gallows hard by the place of meeting would therefore be convenient. But the question arises whether the Hundred Court had the power to hang a man for that or any other offence; and Mr. Crawford thinks that if the answer is in the affirmative, the origin of Hangman's Stones is no longer a mystery.

Easter Sepulchre in East Bergholt Church, Suffolk.—The Easter sepulchre has recently been discovered in East Bergholt Church in the usual place. It was obviously made at some time later than when the wall was built, as the plastering of the recess is very uneven. The figure of our Lord painted on the wall seems to be wearing a cope, fastened at the neck, but not showing any fastening, and a body cloth. The right hand is raised in blessing; the left is also raised and may be holding a staff. The right leg is outside the tomb, and the left one within it, as far as the knee. The plaster background on which this figure is painted in black outline is coloured red, now faded to a pink. The whole of the background not taken up by the figure is covered with a beautiful free-hand arabesque pattern in black. The date is perhaps the middle of the fifteenth century, or a little later. The size of the recess is about 4 ft. 4 in. in length, and 2 ft. 6 in. in height. Its present depth is 9 in., but probably it was as much as double this depth originally. The shelf would project, and there would be sides and a wooden top or canopy, outside the face of the wall.

¹ Madox, *Formulare Anglicanum*, p. 375.

² Durham Treas., Misc. Chart., No. 6873.

³ Newcastle Council Minute Book, N.C. Record Series, i, 43.