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SHORTER NOTES

The silver seal of Robert Fitzwalter, died 1235. *John Cherry writes:* The seal of Robert Fitzwalter is one of the finest medieval silver equestrian seal matrices to survive (see **Plate 5**). Found in Stamford, Lincolnshire, in the reign of Charles II, it came to the British Museum in 1841. Earlier this year it was chosen to represent the exhibition 'Good Impressions', which was mounted in the British Museum with the generous help of Dr John Rassweiler, from January to May; the exhibition was reviewed in this journal by Paul A. Fox, *CoA* 3rd ser. 3 (2007), pp. 75f.

The first account of the seal was given by John Charles Brooke, Somerset Herald, in *Archaeologia* for 1777 (vol. 5, pp. 211-5). He thought that it was the Robert Fitzwalter who died in 1325, and believed that the shield of arms under the horse's head was that of Eleanor, daughter of Robert de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, who married Robert Fitzwalter in 1298 and died in 1304, the Ferrers arms being derived from those of Quincy through the marriage of Roger de Quincy's daughter and co-heiress in 1238 to William, Earl of Derby. Although in his catalogue of the seals in the British Museum, Walter de Gray Birch assigned the seal to Robert Fitzwalter who died in 1235 (*BM Seals* 6015f.), the Brooke interpretation was followed by Sir Anthony Wagner in 1939 and C. H. Hunter Blair in 1943.

The correct background and dating of the Fitzwalter matrix were to be clearly and thoroughly explained by George Henderson in his article 'Romance and politics on some English medieval seals', in *Art History* 1 (1978), pp. 26-42. Robert Fitzwalter and Saher de Quincy were political accomplices and allies, and the prime movers in the Barons revolt against King John, and both were together in the French army, which was defeated by the royal army in 1216. The Fitzwalter arms occur on the seal of Saher de Quincy and Robert reciprocated, so indicating an exchange of arms. Both the style of the seal and this exchange of arms indicate that the matrix was engraved in the years 1210 to 1220.

The same dating was also adopted by M Jean-Bernard de Vaivre in his important article 'Échanges et adoptions d'armoiries au XIIIe siècle', published in the *Comptes rendus de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-lettres* (1982), pp. 371-83, four years after George Henderson, but without referring to it. Walter de Gray Birch did make many mistakes in his six-volume *Catalogue of Seals*, but the misidentification of the seal of Robert Fitzwalter was not one of them.

The Evelyn Arms on a Cistern? *Anton C. Zeven and †Robert A. Laing of Colington write:* On folio 58 of John Evelyn's manuscript study of horticulture 'Elysium Britannicum' (Evelyn Papers vol. clxxv, now BL Add Ms 78342, recently published as *Elysium Britannicum, or The Royal Gardens*, ed. John E. Ingram, Penn Studies in Landscape Architecture: Pittsburgh 2000) there is an interesting drawing covering two full pages, showing some 70 garden utensils, each marked by a number. Among them is a cistern on which appears a heraldic shield and the year 1660 (**Fig. 1**, over,

PLATE 5



Silver equestrian seal matrix of Robert Fitzwalter (d. 1235):
British Museum PE 1841-0624-1; cf. *BM Seals* 6015f.
By courtesy of the Trustees of the British Museum. See page 159.

John Evelyn, *Diary*, ed. J. E. Smith (London: The Folio Society, 1955), p. 129. See also p. 129-30.
British Library, Addit. Ms. 18345 (Evelyn papers vol. 18345, *Diary*, 1660-1661, fol. 129-30).