

The Seal of John Craddock Archdeacon of Northumberland

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EXHIBITED: By Mr. F. E. Macfadyen: The matrix (and a wax impression) of the seal of 1604, of Dr. John Craddock, archdeacon of Northumberland. (See photograph below).

Mr. Macfadyen read the following note by Mr. Brewis on the seal, for which he and Mr. Brewis were thanked:

"In the year 1893 the late Sir William St. John Hope read a paper on archdeacon's seals, in which he said that as compared with Episcopal and other ecclesiastical seals, the known number of those of archdeacons was extremely small; yet it was to be hoped that more would be found and made known. To-night I have pleasure in exhibiting the seal of John Craddock, archdeacon of Northumberland in 1604. The matrix is of brass, vesica-shaped; and measures rather over 3" X 2". It bears the figure of Jehovah in judgment, seated on a rainbow, his feet resting on a globe in the clouds. In his right hand he holds a crown of merit, and in his left hand the sword of justice. Issuing from clouds above his head are rays, on which is the Tetragrammaton¹, and under them a small 'tau' cross (see below).

Heraldry makes its appearance very late on archdeacons' seals. The earliest known is that of a Northumbrian archdeacon, Richard de Castro Bernardo, 1362. It has in base a small shield bearing his arms. Subsequently this practice was generally followed as in the case in point, which has in base a small shield bearing the arms of Craddock Argent, on a chevron azure three garbs or [a blue chevron, with three gold sheaves of wheat]. These arms are the same as those that the said John Craddock caused to be placed over the north door of Gainford Hall, co. Durham, which he built in 1600. Across the field are two ribbons, bearing the words: GRATIA MERITU SIC ERIT IN JUDICIO. On a

¹ Tetragrammaton (from the Greek τετραγράμματον, meaning '[word of] four letters' (tetra "four" + gramma (gen. grammatos) "letter"), refers to יהוה, a name used by the Hebrew Masoretic Text to refer to the deity of the Israelites. The Jewish conception of God holds that this is one of several names for the deity.

border surrounding the field is the legend: SIGILLVM JOHANIS CRADOCKE ARCHIDIACONI NORTHVMBRIE ANO 1604. The O of ANO and the 1 of 1604 are rather crowded together and a flaw in the brass has joined them. This date of 1604 is of interest, for the late Richard Welford in his *Men of Mark* gives a biography of this John Cradock, and states that he was appointed archdeacon of Northumberland in 1619, and only held this appointment for a few months. From this seal it would appear, however, that Mr. Welford was wrongly informed as to the date of the appointment and the length of time he held it. The error appears to have originated with Hutchinson, who, in his *History of Durham*, II, gives a list of archdeacons of Northumberland and sets out that John Cradocke was collated in 1619, and gives as reference *Ath. Oxon.*, I, p. 740-813. Surtees in his *History of Durham*, IV, prints a pedigree of the Cradock family, wherein he sets out that John Cradock was collated to the fifth stall in Durham cathedral in 1619, and was archdeacon of Northumberland, but no date for the latter appointment is there given. The matrix is now in the collection of our fellow member Mr. Macfadyen but he is unable to give any history of it.

<p>John Cradocke's seal</p>	<p>A Tau Cross</p>	<p>These arms are identical to that of the Staffordshire Craddocks.</p>