

Foulden seal matrix – John de Strachan

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A seal matrix dateable to the 13th or 14th century was first made known to the public in an article authored by Mark Hall (Hall 2005, 80–7). The seal was discovered in 2001 by a metal detectorist in Foulden, Berwickshire, in a field next to Foulden parish church and tithe barn. It is pointed-oval or vesica-shaped, and measures 37 millimetres in length by 24 millimetres in height. Adhering to good practice, the finder reported his discovery, which the National Museums of Scotland (hereafter ‘NMS’) claimed as treasure trove (COTT no 08/01).

The Foulden matrix was identified by the NMS as belonging to John de Stratherne, and allocated to the Perth Museum and Art Gallery where it now has the registration number 2003.38, but is not on display.

Pointed-oval or vesica-shaped seals are considered to have belonged to women or clerics, suggesting that this seal belonged to a minor cleric (NMS Background Report, and CDS, ii, pg 531, footnote 1).

In 2014, the NMS was contacted by author, James Strachan, and informed a possible Strachan (not Strathearn) provenance to the Foulden seal matrix appeared highly probable after reviewing Hall’s article and after personally inspecting the artefact at the Perth Museum and Art Gallery. Although the NMS and Treasure Trove Panel (hereafter ‘TTP’) disagree with a Strachan provenance, the NMS did provide the artefact’s Background Report.

The purpose of this article is to argue that the seal matrix belonged to a Strachan, not a member of the Strathearn family, using epigraphy, heraldry, and other documentary sources.

Etymology and epigraphy

The Foulden seal matrix was identified by the NMS as belonging to John de Stratherne on the basis of the legend and allocated to Perth Museum and Art Gallery. A reverse image of the Foulden Matrix face is provided in Illus 2 below, which shows how a wax impression would appear:

However, those of Strachan have changed significantly. Twelfth to 14th-century phonetic spellings suggest the name was originally pronounced in Gaelic using three-syllables, /strath-euch-an/ or /strath-ich-an/ (guttural for the ‘ch’) meaning, ‘valley of the deer river’.

The pronunciation of ‘Strachan’ has undoubtedly evolved over the centuries, with the first-known spelling of ‘Strachan’ not seen until ca. 1636–52 in Robert Gordon’s map of the River Dee and the Birse (Gordon 30). The spelling of ‘Strachan’ did not become common until about c 1850. In the 12th to 14th centuries both Strathearn and Strachan commonly used the prefix of ‘Strath’, with ‘Strathearn’ commonly having two Rs, and ‘Stratheuchan’ just one R (spellings broadly defined).

From an epigraphic perspective, the legend on the Foulden seal matrix (Illus 1 and 2) is in upper-case Lombardic script, which was common for the medieval period. After a personal inspection of the Foulden seal matrix in April 2014, the proposed spelling is: s’ JOH’IS DE STRATHEINE. The bottom of the legend is difficult to read due to post-depositional damage. The legend starts after the cross (paty?) with ‘S’ for *sigillum*. There also appears to be a mark next to the ‘h’, possibly another contraction for the omitted ‘ann’ of ‘Iohannis’.



Illus 1 Face of the Foulden Seal matrix.
(Photograph taken by Garry Strachan at Perth Museum and Art Gallery, 2014)



Illus 2 Reversed image of the Foulden Matrix.

The first letter of the surname, or more appropriately territorial designation, is an 'S' on the bottom-left of the legend (Illus 2), which is located just below the left-horizontal at the rear heels of the stag. This 'S' wraps into the upper-horizontal of the legend and spells 'Stratheine'.

The 'n' in 'Stratheine' is argued to be a second 'R' in the surname by officials at the NMS and TTP, which would suggest a Strathearn provenance. However, NMS/TTP have presumably misread the separate letters 'I' and 'n' as a single letter R. The reverse image of the seal (Illus 2) shows that the letter bears no resemblance to the 'R' in 'Strath', and is clearly an upper-case Lombardic 'N,' which is recognisable today as a lower-case 'n.' This suggests a Strachan provenance to the seal matrix.

Perhaps the least critical element, the Foulden seal matrix bears the Christian name of John. The forename of John was not a name associated with the earls of Strathearn or their family (NMS Background Report). However, it is well established in the 'de Strachan' family during the 13th and 14th century [*Dunfermline Registrum*, nos 86, 87 (c 1278); *SAS*, no 1274 (7 Aug 1309); *RRS*, vi, 377 (2 Jul 1315); *Panmure Registrum*, ii, 158–9 (before 1325); and *RMS*, i, 213 (1365–66)].

Epigraphic dating and analysis of the Foulden seal matrix were not conducted by the NMS, which would normally be part of a formal investigation. Instead, the NMS used non-destructive x-ray fluorescence testing in 2002, which concluded the results were consistent with a 14th- to 15th-century date.

Garry Strachan, Member AGRA, conducted an epigraphic analysis of the seal matrix lettering against examples by Kingsford (1929). He found the script engraving to be consistent with examples from other seals dated about 1320. Combined with the prior metal analysis conducted by NMS researchers, a conflation of both sources seems to confirm an early 14th-century engraving.

Our initial examination based upon an etymological and epigraphic analysis of the artefact suggests the seal matrix belonged to a Strachan, not a member of the Strathearn family. Unfortunately, the proposed spelling on the seal matrix differs from those listed in Tables 1 and 2. Therefore, given the variations in the spellings of 'Strathearn' and 'Strachan' in documented sources, additional evidence from heraldry and other sources is required.

While the inscription on the Foulden seal matrix's legend certainly appears to be a variant of Strachan, the heraldry is more definitive (pers comm, Dr Bruce Durie).

Heraldry

The Lyon Register was established under authority of the Lord Lyon King of Arms in 1672 by an act of the Scottish Parliament requiring all Scottish coats of arms to be registered in it. Prior to 1672, Scottish arms were unregistered and loosely differentiated among the various cadet lines of the family. These older arms, generally shields alone, have been found on various

grants and charters, have been recorded in private rolls, and have been carved into stone or wood on monuments and buildings or painted on glass/plaster, *etc.*

There are striking similarities between a 1309 seal of John de Strachan and the Foulden seal matrix. Both stags (Illus 3 and 4) are *courant* (running) to *sinister* (heraldic left, but the viewer's right). Regarding the 1309 seal, the stag is between three cinquefoils (five petals). While the stag on the Foulden seal has two sexfoils (six petals) below its stomach, and two cinquefoils fore of the stag's legs.

Regarding the 1309 seal of John de Strachan (Illus 3), the characters, *viz* + SIGILL IOHANNIS DE STRAVCHIN are quite widely spaced and look nothing like an actual seal's legend. The form Strauchin is not a form that was found in the 13th-century, which would suggest that the name was known from the charter to which it was attached (now lost), not from the seal itself. Moreover, the drawing of the charges is very delicate and precise, and for the stag beautifully done, *ie*, entirely different from a real seal (pers comm, Maxwell Findlater).



Illus 3 1309 Seal of John de Strachan. (Reproduced by permission of the National Archives of Scotland from *Hutton's Sigilla, Papers of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, GD103/2/15.)



Illus 4 Drawing of the Foulden seal matrix found in Berwickshire (2001). (Drawn by Garry Strachan)

The Foulden matrix lacks any heraldic connection to the earl's of Strathearn, whose heraldry is two chevrons or chevronels (broad and narrow inverted 'V's respectively), which is acknowledged by in the NMS Background Report. Further, there are no cadet lines of the earl's of Strathearn that share similar characteristics as provided in the Foulden seal. Since seals in the 13th and 14th centuries varied greatly among members of the same family, the conclusion of the NMS, based on its reading of the inscription, is that the seal matrix is non-heraldic but belonged to an unknown person connected to the earls of Strathearn. However, although the Foulden matrix is not on a conventionally shaped shield, the design can be considered heraldic (pers comm, Maxwell Findlater). Therefore, a comparison of Strathearn and Strachan seals must be made.

The Strathearn comital seals (*SAS*, nos 2733–2741) all show two chevrons except for the first (*SAS* no 2732) which is unclear and is suggested as 'nine billets (5, 3, and 1). The final seal for a Robert, who was not an earl (*SAS*, no 2742), is described as 'a chevron between three indistinct charges.' Statistically, nine of eleven Stratherne seals in *SAS* incorporate a chevronel (81%); and approximately 75%–85% of all 14th-century Stratherne seals have a chevron. This demonstrates that heraldic elements were fairly consistent on 14th-century Strathearn seals. A review of Strathearn seals in *SAS*, *SHS*, and Laing, *Seals*, i and ii, confirm that no Stratherne seals and armorial bearings contain a stag or foils evident on the Foulden seal matrix.

To the contrary, the 'de Strachan' family have a long history of incorporating both stags and foils in their armorial bearings and seals. Indeed, the Foulden seal matrix with its stag and foils more closely resembles Strachan armorial bearings and seals.

The Strachan seals in *Scottish Armorial Seals* are *SAS*, nos 2713–2723 (Illus 3). Further seals (*SAS*, nos 2715, 2721, 2722) show a stag *trippant* (walking, facing the reader's left, with a right foreleg raised and all others on the ground), *SAS*, nos 2719, 2720 has a stag *lodged* (lying down, but with head raised), and *SAS*, no 2723, has a stag *couchant* (same as lodged). In *SAS*, no 2715, noted above, for John Strachan of Thornton, the stag *trippant* is accompanied by 'a cinquefoil in sinister chief' (located in top right side of the shield).

Among the odd seals is *SAS*, no 2713 with a cross patée (a cross with splayed or broad ends) between four stars for Ego (Hugh) de Strochovn(?). There has been much debate about this particular seal on the Ragman Roll. Bain provides a list of names, including Ego, who paid homage to Edward I on 28 August 1296 [*CDS*, ii, 200; and App, i, 2, (8)]. McAndrew (1999, 686), states that Bain indexes under Strachan, but this is clearly untrue as Bain indexes under Strathhathe 'of Perthshire.'

Also, in *c* 1530, *SAS*, no 2716 is for Agnes, probably a wife, showing 'Ermine, a chief?' (Ermine is a fur-type pattern on the shield consisting of a white background

with black markings representing the winter coat of the soat, a species of weasel; with the chief, *ie*, a band in the top third of the shield, blank). As a wife, she would generally use her own arms on her seal. Agnes's seal appears to be closely associated, in fact identical, to Menzies or Manners family (*SAS*, nos 1958–1963) within a similar time frame (*c* 1511 to 1573). This appears to indicate she is using her husband's seal.

Finally, there are two entries, *SAS*, no 2717 for Master James Strachan, Parson of Fettercairn, Canon of Aberdeen, in 1541, and *SAS*, no 2718 for Master James Strachan, Canon of Aberdeen, in 1566, both showing 'on a chief three cinquefoils'. In *Scottish Heraldic Seals*, we find a seal (*SHS*, no 623/13) for Thomas Strachan of Carmylie, bearing in 1547 'on a chief three cinquefoils', in fact the same as that of Master James.

The Carmylie seals and heraldry (as well as their cadet lines) omit the stag found on other Strachan seals perhaps to reflect the family's disinherited status from the barony of Strachan (*RRS*, v., no 76).

Turning to Armorial, in the *c* 1565 Slains Armorial we find on folio 222, 'Stratachin of Manbodo' (*ie*, Monboddoo), next to 'Stratachin of Thorntoun'. In both, the stag is *trippant* (possibly courant) and Monboddoo has a cinquefoil (rose with five petals) between the attires (antlers). The Hague Roll (*c* 1592) has similar entries for Strawachin of Thornton, on a shield a stag *trippant* (possibly courant); Strawachin of Monboddoo, similar to Slains has a stag *trippant* with a cinquefoil between the antlers; Strawachin of Brighton, on a shield, a crescent, and in chief three quadfoils (flower with four petals); Strawachin of Dillievard, has a stag head centred between his antlers a star of five points. Lord Crawford's Armorial, or Crawfords Secundus, has Strachan of Thornton, a stag *trippant*. The particular interest here is that there are a number of representations of Strachan arms which also incorporate stags and roses/foils. If we disregard Agnes's seal for reasons previously discussed, then over 90% of Strachan seals and coats that date from *c* 1296 to *c* 1565 incorporate the use of a stag and/or foils.

As discussed previously, the etymological meaning of Strachan was Valley of the Deer River (*ie*, /*strath-euch-an*/), and since virtually all Strachan coat of arms incorporate a stag as the main heraldic achievement they are best described as *canting arms* (*ie*, derived from the literal meaning or sound of the name).

Alex Maxwell Findlater in *The Armorial of Sir David Lindsay of the Mount* (Heraldry Society of Scotland, 2018), vol 2, 257 gives an account of the origins of the Strachans. He suggests that they were in origin the keeper of the forest for Gifford, hence the use of the stag on their arms; this would mean that the Strachan arms were not canting but related to their occupation. This theory, however, is difficult to reconcile for several reasons.

The only mention of Gifford being associated with Strachan are on the original grant from King

William to William Gifford in *c* 1189x95 (*RRS*, ii, no 340). The first mention of the 'de Strachan' family is between *c* 1203x13, probably by 20 May 1212, Ranulf de Strachan witnessed a charter of Thomas de Lundie concerning the Wood of Trustach in Banchory parish (*Arbroath Liber*, i, no 65). Further, there are no grants that confirm if the Strachan family were ever tenants or vassals of the Gifford family, or freeholders of the barony of Strachan.

In a review of *Regesta Regum Scottorum*, ii, *Acts of William I, 1165–1214*, there are some 590 charters, yet only one pertaining to lands obtained through marriage (*RRS*, ii, no 320). This charter also confirms that lands granted in marriage, are 'held freely as any marriage portion is held in the whole kingdom.' In summary, during the reign of William I, there is an extremely low probability of a royal charter confirming lands obtained through marriage.

Regarding ecclesiastical sources, the barony of Strachan fell within the Bishopric of Brechin (*Brechin Registrum*, ii, no 1; and *Early Sources*, ii: 520, 522). A review of *Brechin Registrum* confirms the complete absence of any records associated to lands obtained through marriage.

Instead, lands obtained through marriage during this period would have generally been granted in a private charter, and with a very high probability held by the groom. As Barrow confirms, 'Charters and grants between private individuals during the reign of King William I are susceptible to very considerable losses.' (*RRS*, ii, intro §3: 68)

In probably *c* 1230, Waltheof de Strachan granted to St Andrews Priory in Fife, 'lands and timber from Goauch Wood in Strachan to be used for the construction of the cathedral church and the canons new hall in Fife. This charter also conveyed hunting rights in the forest and stipulated the prior's judicial rights in the lands of Blarkerocch' (*St. Andrews Liber*, 276–7; and *Ash*, St Andrews, App. 7, no 2: 241). This grant was made in perpetuity, in pure and perpetual alms.

The phonetic spelling of 'Blarkerocch' is best translated in Gaelic '*Blarcharnoch*', meaning, 'The moor field with the Cairn.' This description uniquely fits the landscape of Bucharn Farm, in the village of Strachan, in which lay a prehistoric burial cairn, and is located west of the village centre and near the parish border. (NGR NO 65935 93010; *Canmore*: Bucharn). Goauch Wood in Strachan (NGR NO 66491 90784) lay immediately south of Blackhall and Blackhall Forest in Strachan, and is situated very near Strachan's north-eastern border, the River Dee. The distances between these two sites confirm the Strachan family held demesne over an area equivalent to the entire modern parish of Strachan.

Also, the grant to St Andrews Priory was made in 'pure and perpetual alms.' If the 'de Strachan' family were merely occupiers or vassals of the Gifford family, the aforementioned grant would have either: (1) mentioned the rights granted in the charter were made with the consent of his feudal superior as in

Newbattle Registrum, no 91; (2) would have been witnessed by the feudal superior as in *Newbattle Registrum*, no 96; or (3) would have been confirmed in a separate charter held by the Priors of St Andrews in Fife as in *Newbattle Registrum*, nos 92, 93. However, no mention of the Gifford family is provided in Yester Writs or elsewhere. Witnesses to this charter were a number of burgesses and clerics from the priory of St Andrews, Ranulf son of Waltheof, and Philip Melville, justiciar of Scotia who was an officer of the crown. The witness list alone suggests a high probability Waltheof de Strachan was the baronial freeholder of Strachan and a vassal of the crown.

In 1264x66, the Strachan family were staunch supporters and closely allied to John Comyn, Earl of Buchan (*Exchequer Rolls*, i: clxxviii, clxxx; and 15). Their association with John Comyn appears likely through his mother, Elizabeth de Quincy (*CDS*, i, nos 2509, 2513). Further, the 'de Strachan' family held a moiety, or half an interest in Beath Waldeve in Fife (*Dunfermline Registrum*, nos 86, 87); while the other half was granted by the Countess of Buchan's grandfather, Sear de Quincy, to Dunfermline Abbey in *c* 1200 (*Dunfermline Registrum*, nos 66, 154; and *RRS*, ii, no 396).

During the First War of Scottish Independence, King Edward of England invaded Scotland and forced the abdication of King John Balliol on 10 July 1296. Shortly after, Edward held parliament at Berwick, he summoned all prominent Scots to swear fealty to him and affix their seal to the Ragman Roll. 'Those swearing fealty included earls and tenants-in-chief, and their heirs, and other major land-owners' (McAndrew, 1999:663) As tenant-in-chief, the Strachans would have been required to pledge fealty. Although, there is no seal for the barony of Strachan, we must remember that as it pertains to seals 'few survive' today (McAndrew, 1999:663). In fact, the North East of Scotland is not well represented in the list of homagers in the 1296 Ragman Roll when compared to the South East (McAndrew, 2014:86–7). Also, with regard to the associated seals, which is the real focus of our attention, about 900 have survived or approximately 55% of the theoretical total' (McAndrew, 2014: 87).

In the early summer of 1308, Castlehill of Strachan was destroyed by fire, and with a high probability by forces loyal to Robert de Bruce. It has been suggested Strachan was held by those loyal to the English or Comyn cause (Yeoman, 1984,318).

The following year (*c* 1309), there was a, 'Charter of donation by John of Strachan to Sir Alexander of Seton, knight, for his vital service against all mortals, the King and his heirs excepted' (PoMS, Document 3/551/5; and Illus 3). Perth was an English supply base and garrison town until 1313, which suggests almost certainly the Strachan family had supported the Balliol and Comyn cause and opposed Bruce's claim to the crown of Scotland.

In 1315, at parliament in Ayr, listed among the knights and barons many of whom had previously opposed Robert de Bruce, Ranulph de Strachan is listed below Sir Alexander Seton (Lothian) and Alexander de Rattray in the district of Gowrie, Perthshire (*RPS*, 1315/1). Lacking the title of ‘Sir’ it is highly unlikely Ranulph de Strachan was a knight, but with a much higher probably held baronial rank. By this date, there were no other lands associated with the Strachan family other than the lands of Strachan itself.

Ayr was a muster point for Edward de Bruce’s ill-fated invasion of Ireland, which disembarked the following month, May 1315. There is no further record of Ranulph de Strachan after the 1315 parliament.

On 1 November 1315, King Robert I disinherited the barony of Strachan granting it to his ardent supporter, future High Chamberlain of Scotland, and future brother-in-law (*RRS*, v, no 76). This appears to be a textbook example of a general policy, by Robert I, to redistribute lands and titles previously held by those loyal to the Balliol and Comyn cause, and in turn grant these lands to his own allies to further cement their loyalty.

By 1328, the Strachan family had reconciled with King Robert I near the end of his reign, and had become ardent supporters of his son and heir, King David II (*Panmure Registrum*, ii, 158–9; *RRS*, vi, no 106; Robertson, *Index*, 37–51; *Scotorum Historia*, xv, nos 13, 41; and *Chronical of Lanercost*, 1913: 339).

After David II’s defeat and capture at the Battle of Neville’s Cross in 1348, the king was now a hostage of the English. Those families that benefited from King Robert de Bruce’s earlier disinheritance now feared they too might be disinherited by another king. Subsequently, many Scottish noblemen made grants of lands and arranged marriages to those families previously disinherited, and in particular rewarded the now faithful. An important distinction is that this did not include restoring to a traitor those lands they had previously forfeited by their actions against their ‘rightful king’ during the War for Scottish Independence (*Homann*, 2001).

Indeed, the Strachan family were the receivers of several new grants. For example, on or before *c* 1352, King David II granted to Thomas Strachan the lands of Knock in the Mearns (Robertson, *Index*, 49–6). In *c* 1357, Thomas Earl of Mar granted to Adam de Strachan in marriage to his kinswomen ‘*consanguinee*’ the lands of Glenkindie (*Collections A and B*: 618); and almost simultaneous to this, in 1352x7, William Keith, Earl Marischal, who at the time held possession of the barony of Strachan, granted to Ade (Latin: Adam) de Strachan the lands of Augherthyne and Scarry in Aberdeenshire (Robertson, *Index*, 49–8). It is almost certain the purpose of the grants from Earl Thomas of Mar and William Keith were invariably political and intended to provide the Strachan family reparations for

King Robert de Bruce’s earlier disinheritance of the barony of Strachan.

To the contrary, the Gifford family were ardent supporters of Robert de Bruce, and their stronghold was the barony and castle of Yester in Lothian (*RRS*, ii, no 48; and NGR NT 5563 6668). After the Scots defeat at the battle of Falkirk, Yester fell to the English. On 25 September 1298, King Edward I disinherited the Gifford family and granted the barony and castle of Yester to Adam of Welles from Lincolnshire (NRS GD45/27/141). Yester was later in the war re-taken by Robert de Bruce, who restored the barony and castle of Yester to the Gifford family (Canmore, ‘Yester Castle And Goblin Ha’).

This leads to a paradox – why would King Robert I destroy Castlehill of Strachan and disinherit the barony of Strachan from the Gifford family while concurrently restoring the barony and castle of Yester? The only logical explanation to this contradiction is that the Gifford family were not the baronial freeholders of Strachan, which was instead held by the ‘de Strachan’ family who were staunch supporters of the Balliol and Comyn cause and actively engaged in open hostilities against Robert de Bruce and his forces.

The particular interest here is that there is no documentation existent today that explicitly confirms the Strachan family’s tenure of the barony of Strachan. Rather, circumstantial evidence provided among well over a dozen charters and other reliable antiquarian sources make a powerful argument the Strachan family were the baronial freeholders of Strachan and vassals of the crown, were close allies of John Comyn, and supporters of the Balliol and Comyn cause. This summarily leading to the family being disinherited by Robert I, and therefore the seals mentioned herein (Illus 1 and 3) were almost certainly canting arms.

New research presented herein suggests a higher probability, a virtual certainty, the Foulden seal matrix has a Strachan provenance based on an etymological and epigraphic study, the chartulary, reliable antiquarian sources, and heraldry.

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Table 1

name	date	source
Stradhern	c 1178x1185	<i>RRS</i> , ii, nos 206, 403
Stardhern	c 1198	
Stratheren	c 1308	<i>RRS</i> , v, nos 3, 23, 116, 486, 487
Strathern(e)	1317	
Stratheryn	1313x1314	
Strattern	1320	
Strathanery		
Stratherne	c 1296	McAndrew (1999), no 3016
Strathern	c 1331	Black (1946), 753–4
Stradher	c 1390	
Strathern or Strethern	c 1474	
Strathenri	c 1329	<i>ER</i> , i, 237
Strathawry	c 1329–71	Robertson, index, 46–7
Strathanry	c 1457	<i>DR</i> , no 452
	c 1304	<i>CDS</i> , ii, no 1538

Table 2

name	date	source
Stradehhan	c 1189x95	<i>RRS</i> , ii, no 340
Strathauen		
Stratheuchin	c 1203x14	<i>Arbroath Liber</i> , nos 65, 306
Strathechin	1239	
Strathphetham	c 1219x25	<i>Brechin Registrum</i> , ii, no 1
Stratheihan	c 1239	<i>St A. Liber</i> , 276
Strathech	c 1230x40	<i>Newbattle Registrum</i> , no 96
Strathechyn	c 1278	<i>Dunfermline Registrum</i> , nos 86, 87, 202
Strahechen	c 1230x40	
Strathechyn	c 1268	<i>ER</i> , i, clxxviii, clxxx; and page 15
Strathewan		
Straueyhyn	c 1278	<i>CDS</i> , i, nos 2509, 2513
Strathekan		
Strauchyne	c 1309	<i>Seton</i> , ii, page 843
Strauchin	c 1309	Laing, <i>Seals</i> , ii, no 927
Strauchine		
Strathechyn	c 1315	<i>RRS</i> , vi, no 377
Straquhilne	c 1316	<i>RRS</i> , v, no 58
Strathechyne	c 1325	<i>Panmure Register</i> , 158–9
Strathean	c 1325	Robertson, <i>Index</i> , 1–15, 37–6, 51–37
Strathaghun	c 1360	
Strathaquhin		
Strathechyn	c 1365–x66	<i>RMS</i> , i, nos 123, 213, 500
Strathekyn		
Strathechyn		

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Abstract

This paper discusses a seal matrix discovered by a metal detectorist in Foulden, Berwickshire in 2001 and identified as belonging to 'John de Stratherne', using epigraphy, heraldry, and other documentary sources the paper argues that a 'John de Strachan' provenance would appear to be more likely.

Keywords

Foulden
Strachan
Epigraphy
Heraldry
Vesica-shaped
Seal matrix

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