

History in Wax - Medieval Great Royal Wax Seals preserved in the National Archives of Sibiu

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Abstract: *The County branch of the National Archives in Sibiu holds an impressive collection of medieval documents. Amongst them, there is a high number with hanging seal. The latter are hanging either from a small parchment bit or from a string. Only a small percent of these shows an attached double royal seal. Our paper aims to describe and analyze these royal seals within the County branch of the National Archives in Sibiu. We managed to identify 7 hanging great royal seals issued by five different Hungarian kings: Otto of Bavaria (1), Mary of Anjou (1), Sigismund of Luxembourg (3), Matthias Corvinus (1) and Vladislaus II. (1). The chronology of these seals spans over the period of two centuries, between the first decade of the 14th one up until the second decade of the 16th one. Through photographic units, we are able to describe the seals both from the perspective of their legend, as well as their decorations and visible heraldic symbols. We shall also try to correlate the heraldic coat of arms represented on these seals with chronicles and other visual sources depicting them.*

Keywords: *hanging great wax seals, heraldic coat of arms, County branch of the National Archives in Sibiu.*

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