

TOKEN

Unique ID: PUBLIC-11831D

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

An incomplete Post Medieval lead alloy 'Lyon' counter, dating AD 1575-1590. On the obverse is a garnished oval shield between two columns, with three fleurs-de-lys within the shield. Above the shield is a large crown and two smaller crowns are above the columns. A foliate design borders the central image with pellets running around the edge. The reverse depicts a rampant lion within a circular banner, surmounted by a crown. Within the banner is the inscription: HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE.

Dimensions: diameter: 22.85mm; weight: 2.64g.

A similar 'Lyon counter' on the database is LON-C5DD59.

This type of token is associated with the order of the garter and Henri III of France in particular, who was invested as knight of the garter in AD 1575.

Mitchiner (1998:1637) writes "These counters are characterised by showing a 'rampant lion within garter' as their obverse design. They have been given the name 'Lyon' counters because they can probably be identified with the 'Lyon' counters cited in the Hengrave (Suffolk) Book of Expenses for April 1583 ("for a case of Lyon counters xvij d" : Barnard 1916, p.86; discussed above).

The Lyon counters form one of the three major series of Elizabethan counters - the Exchequer counters, the Lyon counters and the Crowned Rose counters. Although the majority of Lyon counters have been found in London, they circulated across a much wider area of the Home Counties. Many have been found in East Anglia and their range extends westwards, across to Wiltshire. In this respect the Lyon counters appear to have enjoyed the widest usage among the general population of all counters of English manufacture during the two decades of their heyday, the 1570's to 1590's."

Notes:

Reference: Hawkins E., 1885. Medallion Illustrations of the History of Great Britain and Ireland to the Death of George II (Volume 1) London: Spink

Mitchiner, M. 1998. British Isles Circa 1558 to 1830, Jetons Medalets & Tokens, Volume 3. Seaby: London

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: POST MEDIEVAL

Subperiod from: Early

Period from: POST MEDIEVAL

Subperiod to: Early

Period to: POST MEDIEVAL

Date from: Circa AD 1575

Date to: Circa AD 1590

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Thickness: 0.7 mm

Weight: 2.64 g

Diameter: 22.85 mm

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Wednesday 11th March 2020

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Materials and construction

Primary material: Lead Alloy

Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

Region: [London](#) (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: [Greater London Authority](#) (Greater London Authority)

District: [City and County of the City of London](#) (London Borough)

Parish or ward: [Dowgate](#) (London Borough Ward)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: TQ3280

Four figure Latitude: 51.5035277

Four figure longitude: -0.09955492

1:25K map: TQ3280

1:10K map: TQ38SW

Grid reference source: Generated from computer mapping software

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Mudlarking

General landuse: Open fresh water

Specific landuse: Running water