COIN

Unique ID: SUSS-C201D5

Object type certainty: Certain Workflow status: Awaiting validation

A worn pierced and bent Post-Medieval silver sixpence of William III (1694-1702) dating c. AD 1694-1702. The coin has been deliberately worn smooth and bent into a gentle S-shape characteristic of a love-token. It is also pierced with a circular aperture, notably though the eye of the monarch from obverse to reverse. As Spink (2013) p. 369-372.

Obverse: bust right.

Reverse: crowned cruciform shields.

Measurements: diameter: 20.85mm; thickness: 0.62mm and weight: 1.94g

Other similar recorded examples on the database include DEV-0A5CF4 which notes that according to Dr Kevin Leahy such 'Love tokens' were made using coins dating from the time of Elizabeth I (1558-1603) to the reign of Ann (1702-1714) with some Georgian examples. They were particularly common in the reign of William III (1694-1702). While 'love tokens' should be inscribed with the name of the person loved most of these defaced coins are uninscribed. Bending coins as part of an oath is an ancient practice; Manville (2014) says of such bent coins: "A twice bent coin might be carried in the pocket or wallet as a protection against the 'evil eye' or other witchcraft, hence the *crooked sixpence* of the children's rhyme. Other so-called lucky pocket pieces might be bent to distinguish them from normal coins and prevent inadvertent spending."

The fact that the item is pierced through the eye is notable, other obverse portraits that appear to have been deliberately defaced include: <u>SUSS-E941A0</u>; <u>LVPL-A5B60E</u>; <u>LIN-DCDB5A</u>; <u>DUR-F1470E</u>; and <u>PUBLIC-3AA6EC</u>.

Evidence of reuse: Bent into a love-token and pierced

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: POST MEDIEVAL Period from: POST MEDIEVAL Period to: POST MEDIEVAL Date from: Circa AD 1694 Date to: Circa AD 1702

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1 Thickness: 0.62 mm Weight: 1.94 g Diameter: 20.85 mm

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Materials and construction

Primary material: Silver Manufacture method: Milled Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

Region: <u>South East</u> (European Region) County or Unitary authority: <u>West Sussex</u> (County) District: <u>Chichester</u> (District) Parish or ward: <u>Lavant</u> (Civil Parish)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: SU8509 Four figure Latitude: 50.87425833 Four figure longitude: -0.79329862 1:25K map: SU8509 1:10K map: SU80NE Grid reference source: From finder Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1000 metre square.