

STUD

Unique ID: SF-CB7620

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Published

An Anglo-Saxon gold and garnet setting, originally circular but now heavily damaged, with most cells empty; plus a separate garnet and foil. A now distorted quatrefoil in the centre preserves remains of a white inlay (scientific examination (see below) suggested that this is probably shell). The quatrefoil is encircled by four half-round, now empty cloisons. From these, stepped cells radiate outwards to the edge of the setting. Four of them still preserve their garnets. Due to the distortion of the object, the garnets have risen and partly tilted and on three of them it is thus possible to see their waffled backing foil. A triple frame surrounds this arrangement: The plain cell border is set inside a beaded-wire ring and the outer edge of the object is framed by a two- or three-ply twist of beaded wires. Now separate from the object are another garnet and its slightly scrunched backing foil. The plain, round back-plate of the object is virtually undamaged. The tips of the three rivets holding the plain cell frame to the back-plate are visible towards the edge. In addition, there are two holes in the centre of the back-plate. Broken rivet shanks are visible inside and will have served to attach the setting to the object it originally came from.

It is not entirely clear what this stud actually came from although it must have originally been part of a larger object. Due to its shape, the likely presence of shell and the overall layout of the cells, it could be the central boss from an Anglo-Saxon plated disc or composite brooch. The triple frame would support this view and the stud would have been similar to those on brooches such as from Sarre or Kingston (Avent 1975,ii, plates 67, 68). Another similar setting was found at Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire in 2001 (PAS-D41548, 2001T4; Treasure Annual Review 2001, no. 38); also see 2006T84.

It dates to the seventh century AD, and most probably to the first half of the century.

Non-destructive X-ray fluorescence analysis of the surface of the cloisonné garnet mount indicated a gold content of 79-82%, a silver content of 16-18%, and a copper content of 2-4%. The white inlays are probably shell.

Notes:

This find qualifies as Treasure under the Treasure Act of 1996 in terms of both age and precious metal content.

Subsequent actions

Current location of find: British Museum

Subsequent action after recording: Acquired by a museum after being disclaimed as Treasure

Treasure details

Treasure case tracking number: 2005T510

Chronology

Broad period: EARLY MEDIEVAL
Subperiod from: Early
Period from: EARLY MEDIEVAL
Subperiod to: Early
Period to: EARLY MEDIEVAL
Ascribed Culture: Anglo-Saxon style
Date from: Exactly AD 600
Date to: Circa AD 650

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1
Length: 20.1 mm
Width: 10.7 mm
Weight: 5.87 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Saturday 1st October 2005

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Other reference: 2005 T510
Treasure case number: 2005T510

Materials and construction

Primary material: Gold
Secondary material: Gem
Completeness: Incomplete

Spatial metadata

Region: [Eastern](#) (European Region)
County or Unitary authority: [Suffolk](#) (County)
District: [Forest Heath](#) (District)
To be known as: Near Mildenhall

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: From a paper map
Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 0.01 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector

Current location: British Museum

General landuse: Other

Specific landuse: Garden

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