BADGE

Unique ID: LEIC-A6C834

Object type certainty: Certain Workflow status: Published

Late medieval silver badge in the form of a male boar, complete except for the lower part of three of its four legs. The boar is seen in profile, facing left. It has an open mouth, long nose and prominent tusks; the ears are pointed and the left ear, closer to the viewer, has a recessed centre. A row of upright, slightly rearward-pointing bristles runs all the way along the back from the thick neck to the curled-up tail. Much of both right legs are missing, but more survives of the front left leg and the rear left leg is still complete. Under the tail is a prominent testicle, and between and in front of the rear legs is a forward-pointing penis.

There are patches of gilding behind its ears, on the tail and across the row of bristles along its back. This would suggest that the whole surface was originally thickly gilded.

The reverse contains a single sub-rectangular patch of solder, which would have held a pin in place. It measures 28mm long, 15mm high and 2mm thick. The object weighs 3.25g and is in fair condition. It dates to the late 15th century AD.

The Boar was the livery badge of the household of Richard III. The badge was found during the search for the Battle of Bosworth field and provides good evidence for the presence of a member of the king's personal household in the area. It thus adds weight to the other archaeological evidence, which has now located the battlefield and thus the place of death of Richard III.

Notes:

This badge appeared in the ITV1 Series 'Britain's Secret Treasures' on 22 July 2012.

The badge is published on pages 104 and 105 of the catalogue for the British Museum exhibition 'Shakespeare: Staging the World' (2012), by Jonathan Bate and Dora Thornton (BM Press).

Find of note status

This is a find of note and has been designated: National importance

Subsequent actions

Current location of find: Bosworth Battlefield Centre

Subsequent action after recording: Acquired by museum after being declared Treasure

Treasure details

Treasure case tracking number: 2009T480

Chronology

Broad period: MEDIEVAL Subperiod from: Late Period from: MEDIEVAL Subperiod to: Late

Period to: MEDIEVAL Date from: Circa AD 1470

Date to: AD 1485

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1 Length: 28 mm Width: 15 mm Thickness: 2 mm Weight: 3.25 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Wednesday 9th September 2009

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

SMR reference number: FLE15302

Other reference: BOS5227

Treasure case number: 2009T480 Museum accession number: X.A19.2011

Materials and construction

Primary material: Silver Completeness: Incomplete Surface Treatment: Gilded

Spatial metadata

Region: East Midlands (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: Leicestershire (County)

District: Hinckley and Bosworth (District)

To be known as: Bosworth

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: GPS (from the finder)

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 0.01 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector Discovery circumstances: Bosworth Survey Current location: Bosworth Battlefield Centre