

BROOCH

Unique ID: GLO-6E1917

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

Cast gilt copper alloy annular brooch length 27mm, width 35mm, thickness 15mm, weight 12.90g.

The loop of the brooch is made up of two reclining big cats (either lions or leopards) in high relief with their heads raised and facing each other (couchant guardant). The tails of the animals are wrapped around their bodies. The left animals waist is narrowed to form a constriction for the pin. There for paws of the beasts are outstretched and holds a bearded human facemask within a circular border, this forms the apex of the brooch. The hind legs are again outstretched and hold an animal facemask with an elongated snout. The brooch has been gilt. The pin is silver and is likely to be a latter addition, replacing a copper alloy gilt pin.

This artefact belongs to a series of 13th century brooches depicting pairs of figures or more commonly animals in high relief, arranged to form a ring. An example depicting two interlocking dragons, found in Bennington Herts, is thought to date to the mid 13th century (Alexander & Binski, 1987, 483). Further examples have also been recorded under the 1996 Treasure Act, 2006 T209 from Cliffe, Kentis silver-gilt and depicts two lions holding two human facemasks, this example is dated to the 13th century (DCMS, 2008, 105, 344). Another example depicting two lions was found at South Ormsby Kumb Ketsby, Lincolnshire 2003 T12 and is also dated to the 13th century (DCMS, 2006, 95, 222). The significance of the facemask is unknown, however as it is depicting a bearded figure this does raise the question whether this could represent Jesus Christ.

Alexander J & Binski P (eds), 1987, Age of Chivalry: Art in Plantagenet England 1200-1400, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London.

DCMS, 2006, Treasure Annual Report 2004, Department of Culture, Media and Sport: Cultural Property Unit

DCMS, 2008, Treasure Annual Report 2004, Department of Culture, Media and Sport: Cultural Property Unit

Class: annular

Subsequent actions

Current location of find: The Museum in the Park (Stroud)

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

Treasure details

Treasure case tracking number: 2010T155

Chronology

Broad period: MEDIEVAL

Period from: MEDIEVAL

Period to: MEDIEVAL
Date from: AD 1200
Date to: AD 1300

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1
Length: 27 mm
Width: 35 mm
Thickness: 15 mm
Weight: 12.9 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Sunday 17th January 2010

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

SMR reference number: 42944
Other reference: 2010 T155
Treasure case number: 2010T155

Materials and construction

Primary material: Copper alloy
Secondary material: Silver
Manufacture method: Cast
Completeness: Complete
Surface Treatment: Gilded

Spatial metadata

Region: [South West](#) (European Region)
County or Unitary authority: [Gloucestershire](#) (County)
District: [Stroud](#) (District)
To be known as: Ham and Stone

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
Current location: The Museum in the Park (Stroud)
General landuse: Cultivated land

Specific landuse: Character undetermined

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