

DENTAL IMPLEMENT

Unique ID: WAW-B755A1

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

An incomplete gold dental plate with two incomplete teeth voids. The plate is misshapen due to accidental damage following its deposition. It has an undulating surface and is indented along one edge, presumably to accommodate existing teeth. There are two incomplete rivets, these appear to be made of a white metal alloy. The plate measures 32mm long, 11.16mm wide, 5.95mm thick and weighs 1.8g.

The plate dates to the Modern period: c. 1825 - c. 1950.

Sophie Riches, (Museum Assistant at the British Dental Association Museum) commented on a similar plate IOW-D164D2:

The lack of detail in the palate indicates that it was swaged but unfortunately this gives quite a wide date range. Swaging was introduced in the early 19th century and it was still possible to have a swaged gold denture made after the Second World War, although they were very rare at this time.

The method for making a gold denture: A plaster model was made from a wax impression from which a metal model was made (usually from zinc). A sheet of gold was then shaped over the metal model using a horn mallet. By the turn of the 20th century swaging presses had been introduced although horn mallets were still available up to the middle of the 20th century.

The teeth would have been formed from facings, which are just the front of the tooth. They were attached to the pins and would have been made of either porcelain or acrylic depending on the date of the denture. Although as porcelain teeth were generally thought to be of better quality than the early acrylic teeth, someone may have chosen to have porcelain teeth in their denture even when acrylic teeth were available.

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: MODERN

Period from: MODERN

Date from: Circa AD 1825

Date to: Circa AD 1950

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 32 mm

Width: 11.16 mm

Thickness: 5.95 mm

Weight: 1.8 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Monday 1st March 2010 - Monday 3rd May 2010

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Materials and construction

Primary material: Gold

Manufacture method: Struck or hammered

Completeness: Uncertain

Spatial metadata