

THIMBLE

Unique ID: IOW-7E8237

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Published

A post-Medieval silver thimble (c. 1600-c. 1700 AD). Treasure case no. 2011 T738.

The rim is partially missing and the indentations on the sides and domed crown are regular. It has a frieze above the rim of repetitive fleurs-de-lis interrupted by a small panel containing two hearts. Both hearts are supported by putti. Above the hearts are the maker's initials: R I.

20.9mm (height); 18.5mm (width); 16.3mm (thickness). Weight: 3.61g. The walls are very thin.

A thimble with a similar design and the same maker's mark has been recorded from Brighstone, Isle of Wight. (**PAS: IOW-B0F192**).

Silver thimbles were used increasingly by the European nobility and gentry during the 17th Century but surviving examples are rare, given that thimbles were much used and, when worn, were likely to have been melted down for their bullion value. In England, silver thimbles are documented as having been donated by women on the Parliamentary side to be melted down during the Civil War. Even later 17th Century English silver thimbles are rare, with few pieces in the national collections in the British Museum and the Museum of London.

Notes:

Newport, Isle of Wight: silver thimble (Treasure: 2011 T738; (IOW-7E8237)

Date: c. 1600-c. 1700.

Discovery: Found by David Mortimer-Kelly while metal-detecting in November 2011 and recorded by Frank Basford (Isle of Wight FLO).

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Metal content: The find contains a minimum of 10% silver and predates 1711. It thus qualifies as Treasure under the stipulations of the Treasure Act 1996 in terms of precious metal content and age. Frank Basford, Finds Liaison Officer, Isle of Wight, November 2011.

Class: Closed **Inscription:** R I

Subsequent actions

Current location of find: Returned to finder, 21/01/2012

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder after being disclaimed as Treasure

Treasure details

Treasure case tracking number: 2011T738

Chronology

Broad period: POST MEDIEVAL

Subperiod from: Early
Period from: POST MEDIEVAL
Subperiod to: Late
Period to: POST MEDIEVAL
Date from: Circa AD 1600
Date to: Circa AD 1700

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1
Height: 20.9 mm
Width: 18.5 mm
Thickness: 16.3 mm

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Tuesday 1st November 2011

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Other reference: IOW2011-4-467; Treasure case no. 2011 T738
Treasure case number: 2011T738

Materials and construction

Primary material: Silver
Manufacture method: Hand made
Completeness: Incomplete

Spatial metadata

Region: [South East](#) (European Region)
County or Unitary authority: [Isle of Wight](#) (Unitary Authority)
District: [Isle of Wight](#) (Unitary Authority)
To be known as: Newport

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: Returned to finder, 21/01/2012
General landuse: Cultivated land
Specific landuse: Operations to a depth greater than 0.25m

