

KNIFE

Unique ID: LON-540E79

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

A post-medieval copper-alloy knife handle, dating to the 17th century. The handle is cast in two separate pieces, soldered down the middle so that it is hollow. Part of the iron whittle tang is still visible inside the hollow of the handle. The handle is rectangular and tapers to the blade end. There is a zoomorphic terminal that appears to be in the form of a lion's head (or some fantastical beast). The handle has recesses which form an enamelled decoration in foliate designs running down the widest sides, which are slightly curved. The enamel is no longer present, but traces remain in the form light grey concretion. The terminal would have also been decorated in enamel, with the eyes and mane/hair containing the same grey concretion. The mane is formed of oval panels with a scrolling design on either side. The head projects at 90 degrees to the handle. The snout is long and irregular shaped, with well-defined muscles. The animal appears to be growling, exposing four canine teeth in the mouth. There is a rounded crest on the top of the head.

Based on similar examples on the database it would appear that this objects dates to the 17th century and is Dutch in origin. However, it is noted with find no. HAMP-AE36D4 that the style of enamelling is more commonly produced in London workshops in the same period. Referred to by Papin and Soulat (2017, 6; note 28).

Dimensions: length: 84.09 mm; width: 24.41 mm; thickness: 15.06 mm; weight: 49.49g.

Class: handle

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: POST MEDIEVAL

Period from: POST MEDIEVAL

Period to: POST MEDIEVAL

Date from: Circa AD 1600

Date to: Circa AD 1650

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 84.09 mm

Width: 24.41 mm

Thickness: 15.06 mm

Weight: 49.49 g

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Materials and construction

Primary material: Copper alloy

Secondary material: Iron

Manufacture method: Cast

Decoration style: Zoomorphic

Completeness: Incomplete

Surface Treatment: Inlaid with enamel

Spatial metadata

Region: [London](#) (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: [Greater London Authority](#) (Greater London Authority)

District: [Tower Hamlets](#) (London Borough)

Parish or ward: [Limehouse](#) (London Borough Ward)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: TQ3680

Four figure Latitude: 51.50258022

Four figure longitude: -0.04195915

1:25K map: TQ3680

1:10K map: TQ38SE

Grid reference source: Generated from computer mapping software

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1000 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector

General landuse: Open fresh water

Specific landuse: Running water

Papin, P., and Soulat, J., 2017 [*A Knife handle of Dutch style of the 17th century from the royal lodgings of the fortress at Loches \(Indre-et-Loire\)*](#) Fleurance: Laboratoire LandArc 6 , 28