

BROOCH

Unique ID: NARC-0B6A9E

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Published

A gold brooch with a plain thin frame formed into the shape of an asymmetric heart.

The brooch is delicate, but complete. The frame is 1.5mm thick and elliptical in cross-section. The pin is present and is secured around the frame at the point where the side of the heart is more accentuated, or outwardly curved, and is narrowed to accomodate it. The collar of the pin is 3.5mm long and is curled around to fit the narrowed frame exactly, It has been soldered to create the impression of a solid tube. The tip of the pin touches the back of the smaller curve of the heart.

Dimensions: 24mm long. 21mm wide. 1.5mm thick. Weight: 1.69g.

Parallels and discussion:

Such brooches were used as love tokens during this period and some surviving examples carry inscriptions of amatory intent.

A 14th century asymmetric heart brooch, richly enamelled with flowers and clasped-hands motifs, was bequeathed to the British Museum by A.W. Franks (accession number AF.2701). For a simpler and closer comparison in silver, recently acquired by the British Museum, see Treasure Annual Report 2000, no.140 (Weeting-with-Broomhill, Norfolk).

A very similar gold brooch was submitted for Treasure in 2001 (2001T15). There are several similar brooches made of silver. See 2012T531 for a discussion of some of these.

This brooch along with those mentioned above have been recorded with a medieval date. However, the asymmetrical style does seem to have been one in use for a long period, as one recorded at CAMHER-9AB1F2 has been dated to the 18th century as it is set with marcasite. Despite that later example and longevity of style, the recorder is confident that this brooch fits into the Medieval date.

Reference: J Evans, A History of Jewellery 1100-1870 (London, 1951) pl. 16.

The object fulfils the Treasure Act (1996) as it is more than 300 years old and has a precious metal content exceeding 10%.

Subsequent actions

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

Treasure details

Treasure case tracking number: 2014T816

Chronology

Broad period: MEDIEVAL

Period from: MEDIEVAL

Period to: MEDIEVAL

Date from: Circa AD 1300

Date to: Circa AD 1500

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 24 mm

Width: 21 mm

Thickness: 1.5 mm

Weight: 1.69 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Sunday 26th October 2014

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Treasure case number: 2014T816

Materials and construction

Primary material: Gold

Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

Region: [East Midlands](#) (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: [Leicestershire](#) (County)

District: [Harborough](#) (District)

Parish or ward: [Hallaton](#) (Civil Parish)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: SP7797

Four figure Latitude: 52.56539019

Four figure longitude: -0.86545657

1:25K map: SP7797

1:10K map: SP79NE

Grid reference source: Generated from computer mapping software

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1000 metre square.