STRAP FITTING

Unique ID: SOM-DA7356

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

A copper alloy zoomorphic belt hook or strap fitting dating to the period c.AD 1550 - 1950. The strap fitting is S-shaped, with a central boss consisting of three moulded pellets. Both terminals are in the form of the head of a beast such as a dragon or sea creature. The beasts are decorated with scales along their necks. The head of one beast is curved to meet the central boss.

The belt hook is stylistically similar to a dragon or a sea creature as opposed to the more common snake design. The earliest snake-form fasteners appear on portraits of the early post-Medieval period, often in association with sword-belts. Bailey (1997, 20) states that the 'snake form belt hooks' became popular during the 16th century, where an example can be seen in the portrait of Robert Dudley, first Earl of Leicester, c. 1575. The fastener was part of a sword belt, and was used in place of the normal buckle. The snake belt hook would seem to have fallen from fashion by the 17th century, and remained so until the end of the 18th century, when it was favoured by the military.

Read has published a similar belt fitting as no. 822 (Read, 2008, 230) which he has dated to c. mid 16th to c. early 17th Century, possibly from a sword belt. However the style is a relatively long lived one, persisting into the 20th Century.

It measures 35.33mm in length, 15.28 in width at the terminal and weighs 7.75g.

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 1500 Date to: Circa AD 1950

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 35.33 mm Width: 15.28 mm Weight: 7.75 g

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Other reference: SCC no. 016937

Materials and construction

Primary material: Copper alloy

Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

Region: South West (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: Somerset (County)

District: West Somerset (District)
To be known as: Carhampton

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: From finder

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 0.01 metre square.