

TOKEN

Unique ID: WILT-51AFD8

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

A lead medieval token of the Boy Bishop type dating to c. AD 1450. There is a long cross on the reverse with pellets in a few quarters, surrounded by a crude legend. The obverse shows a bust of a bishop surrounded by a crude legend. This token immitates a groat. Diameter: 27.11mm, thickness: 1.37mm, weight: 4.52g. The coin has been pierced twice, leaving two holes.

During medieval winter solistices it became a Christian tradition for each town to elect a Boy Bishop whom was paraded around on processions. During the processions lead tokens were handed out to the crowd to celebrate the event. This is based on the Roman celebration 'Feast of Saturnalia' which was where society was turned upside down. The Christian community evolved the event so instead of the King of Slaves elected, the Boy Bishop was.

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: MEDIEVAL

Period from: MEDIEVAL

Period to: MEDIEVAL

Date to: Circa AD 1450

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Thickness: 1.37 mm

Weight: 4.52 g

Diameter: 27.11 mm

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Other reference: SSWM4671

Materials and construction

Primary material: Lead

Manufacture method: Struck or hammered

Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

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

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

District: [Breckland](#) (District)

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

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: TL9490

Four figure Latitude: 52.47344555

Four figure longitude: 0.85492624

1:25K map: TL9490

1:10K map: TL99SW

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1000 metre square.