

# FINGER RING

**Unique ID:** CAM-D38E7E

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

A gold posy finger-ring inscribed on the inside of the band '*MY Hart and I untell I die*'. The finger-ring is in good condition with a circular hoop of 18.5mm external diameter. The band has a thickness of 1.7mm and width of 3.7mm. The band is a continuous loop although the two ends appear to have been joined by solder at the location of the gap between the beginning and end of the inscription then smoothed in an attempt to hide the join. This can be seen, on close inspection of the band, on the inner (narrower line) and outer (wider line) surface as a paler metal line (see annotated image). The band has a D-shaped cross-section with straight inner edge and convex outer surface. The outer surface is undecorated and has a slightly angular mid circumferential ridge to the overall D-shaped convex profile.

## **Dimensions:**

Diameter: 18.5mm

Width: 3.7mm

Thickness: 1.7mm

Weight: 3.24g.

**Discussion:**The motto is rendered as '*my heart and I untill I die*' on a ring in the British Museum (1961,1202.233) broadly dated to the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Another version of the inscription is recorded by Dame Joan Evans on a ring in the South Kensington Museum (now V&A) as '*MY HART & I UNTILL I DY*' (78). No date is given by Dame Evans but the inscription also appears with the same spelling but in lowercase, on a silver heart-shaped pendant in the collection of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge (Avery et al, 272), which is dated to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

## **Notes:**

The ring appears to consist of over 10% precious metal and on balance of probability to be over 300 years old at the time of finding and as such qualifies as potential treasure under the stipulations of the Treasure Act 1996.

**Helen Fowler, Finds Liaison Officer for Cambridgeshire**

**Ian Richardson, Treasure Registrar**

**References:** Evans, J. 1931. English Posies and Posy Rings. London: Oxford University Press.

Avery, V., Caleresu, M., Laven, M. 2015. Treasured Possessions: From the Renaissance to the Enlightenment. Cambridge: Philip Wilson Publishers.

**Class:** Posy **Inscription:** MY Hart and I untell I die.

## Subsequent actions

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

## Treasure details

Treasure case tracking number: 2016T734

## Chronology

Broad period: POST MEDIEVAL

Period from: POST MEDIEVAL

Period to: POST MEDIEVAL

## Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Width: 3.7 mm

Thickness: 1.7 mm

Weight: 3.24 g

Diameter: 18.5 mm

## Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Saturday 13th August 2016 - Saturday 13th August 2016

## Personal details

Found by: This information is restricted for your login.

Recorded by: Ms Helen Fowler

Identified by: Ms Helen Fowler

Secondary identifier: Mr Ian Richardson

## Other reference numbers

Treasure case number: 2016T734

## Materials and construction

Primary material: Gold

Completeness: Complete

## Spatial metadata

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

County or Unitary authority: [Bedford](#) (Unitary Authority)

District: [Bedford](#) (Unitary Authority)

To be known as: Bedford Unitary Authority Area

## Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: From a paper map

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 10 metre square.

### **Discovery metadata**

Method of discovery: Metal detector

General landuse: Cultivated land

Specific landuse: Character undetermined

Evans, J., 1931 [English Posies and Posy Rings](#) London: Oxford University Press

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