

FINGER RING

Unique ID: BERK-B279D7

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Published

TREASURE CASE 2016 T932. Description: A complete gold finger ring with intact intaglio dating to the Roman period. The finger ring can be categorised as Henig's (1978) Type VIII, dating from the second or third century AD. The finger ring is keeled in profile with a square-section to the lower half of the hoop. The upper half of the hoop, forming the shoulders of the ring, is triangular in plan with a raised central panel formed of an incised chevron that extends from the bezel to where the shoulder meets the hoop. The upper shoulders have a scrolled design on each outer edge. The bezel is raised above the shoulders in an oval cell, again of gold, which contains the (probable) cabochon intaglio. The intaglio depicts a female, probably Fortuna (Goddess of fortune and the personification of luck) (Martin Henig, pers. comm.) standing facing left. The intaglio measures 10.4 x 9.54 mm.

There is a small bend and a dent in the hoop of the ring, probably caused by post-depositional damage. Otherwise the ring survives in very good condition and is of the highest quality. It dates to the third century AD.

Discussion: Similar finger rings have been reported through the Treasure Act, including 2014 T297 from Warwickshire and 2009 T636 from North Yorkshire (both very similar in form to that recorded herein), and 2013 T319 from Cheshire and 2011 T836 from Norwich.

Dimensions: External diameter of hoop 19.9mm; internal diameter of hoop 15.9mm; thickness of lower hoop 1.09mm; height of bezel 4.4mm; weight 4.2 grams.

References: Henig, M. 1978. A Corpus of Roman Engraved Gemstones from the British Isles (B.A.R. 8) Oxford

Notes:

As this object is over 300 years old and constitutes substantially more than 10% precious metal by weight, it qualifies as treasure under the Treasure Act 1996.

Treasure Valuation Committee valuation: £2000

Find of note status

This has been noted as an interesting find by the recorder.

Class: Type VIII

Subsequent actions

Current location of find: Oxfordshire Museum Service

Subsequent action after recording: Acquired by museum after being declared Treasure

Treasure details

Treasure case tracking number: 2016T932

Chronology

Broad period: ROMAN

Period from: ROMAN

Period to: ROMAN

Date from: Circa AD 200

Date to: Circa AD 300

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Thickness: 1.09 mm

Weight: 4.2 g

Diameter: 19.9 mm

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Sunday 6th November 2016

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Other reference: OXPAS2016.491

Treasure case number: 2016T932

Museum accession number: OXCMS : 2017.180

Materials and construction

Primary material: Gold

Secondary material: Gem

Manufacture method: Cast

Decoration style: Figurative

Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

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

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

District: [Vale of White Horse](#) (District)

To be known as: Kingstone Bagpuize

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: GPS (from the finder)

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 0.01 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector

Current location: Oxfordshire Museum Service

General landuse: Cultivated land

Henig, M., 1974 [*A Corpus of Roman Engraved Gemstones From British Sites*](#) Oxford: British Archaeological Reports 8