

THIMBLE

Unique ID: LANCUM-966A0E

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

A complete, silver, post medieval thimble, AD.1600-1700 of two-piece construction. The thimble is conical with a domed top, the lower third of the piece is decorated with 2 putti supporting what appear to be two conjoined hearts engraved with initials *AH* to the side are what appears to be the initials *ug* possible a makers mark. The body of the thimble is formed from a strip of sheet metal wrapped around to form a cylinder with the top added. The thimble is covered in regularly spaced round holes. There is a seam that runs up the side of the piece and around the top which is slightly damaged and torn below the crown of the thimble. The top has become detached.

Silver thimbles were used increasingly by the European nobility and gentry during the 17th Century but surviving examples are rare, given that thimbles were much used and, when worn, were likely to have been melted down for their bullion value. In England, silver thimbles are documented as having been donated by women on the Parliamentary side to be melted down during the Civil War. Even later 17th Century English silver thimbles are rare, with few pieces in the national collections in the British Museum and the Museum of London.

Several similar thimbles with designs and various maker's marks have gone through the Treasure process and been dated to the 17th century such as IOW-7E8237 (2011 T738) and IOW-B0F192 (2009 T249), both from the Isle of Wight, the latter also pierced, SUSS-23D845 (2011 T14) from East Sussex and LIN-556645 (2016 T465) from Lincolnshire.

Metal content: The find contains a minimum of 10% silver and predates 1711. It thus qualifies as Treasure under the stipulations of the Treasure Act 1996 in terms of precious metal content and age.

The length is 18mm, the width is 15mm and the weight 5.32g.

Subsequent actions

Current location of find: Lancashire County Council Museum Service

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

Treasure details

Treasure case tracking number: 2018T319

Chronology

Broad period: POST MEDIEVAL

Period from: POST MEDIEVAL

Period to: POST MEDIEVAL

Date from: Circa AD 1680

Date to: Circa AD 1720

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1
Length: 18 mm
Width: 15 mm
Weight: 5.32 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Tuesday 14th May 2019 - Monday 14th May 2018

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Treasure case number: 2018T319
Museum accession number: LANMS.2021.9

Materials and construction

Primary material: Silver
Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

Region: [North West](#) (European Region)
County or Unitary authority: [Lancashire](#) (County)
District: [Ribble Valley](#) (District)
Parish or ward: [Paythorne](#) (Civil Parish)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: SD8452
Four figure Latitude: 53.96382968
Four figure longitude: -2.24535995
1:25K map: SD8452
1:10K map: SD85SW
Grid reference source: Centred on parish
Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector
Current location: Lancashire County Council Museum Service
General landuse: Cultivated land
Specific landuse: Minimal cultivation