DRESS FASTENER (DRESS)

Unique ID: SOM-7174B4

Object type certainty: Certain
Workflow status: Awaiting validation

An incomplete Post-medieval, cast, copper-alloy, one-piece, moulded-relief dress fastener with the arms of the Commonwealth, dating to AD 1647 - 1660.

The piece is the eye section of a hook-and-eye fastener and consists of an oval plate with three rounded attachment knops and a bifurcate ornamental knop on each side. Two of these knops are at its base, flanking what would have been an integral sub-rectangular attachment loop which is now broken and only indicated by a projecting stump; these knops are c6mm in diameter with central piercings c2.5mm in diameter. The final knop is placed centrally at the opposite end and is slighly larger, being c6.5mm in diameter with a piercing of c3.5mm diameter, and flanked by two rounded knops with raised spiral (scroll) decoration continuing the raised border. The bifurcating knops that expand from the centre of each longer side of the fastener are also scrolled.

The front of the plate is decorated in low relief with a central recessed oval field containing the two raised shields side by side of the Commonwealth, the left shield depicting an Irish harp, the right St. George's cross. These shields are contained within a raised wreath border. The reverse of the fastener is plain.

The fastener is 32.2mm long, 21.5mm wide, 1.7mm thick and weighs 4.92g.

Similar artefacts can be seen in Read (2008: 175-177), of which no. 674 is almost identical (and also found in Somerset). (See also SOM-7C87C7 which is also almost identical.) Read (*ibid*) classifies these as his Class A, type 8. Webley (2018) has studied this group of blunt hooked fasteners with Commonwealth arms: re-affirming the South Western bias in their distribution, he suggests it may relate to the extent of conflict and divergent loyalties and opinions in the area during the Civil War.

Class: Read Class A, Type 8 **Sub class:** eye piece

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: POST MEDIEVAL
Period from: POST MEDIEVAL
Period to: POST MEDIEVAL
Date from: Exactly AD 1647
Date to: Exactly AD 1660

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1
Length: 32.2 mm

Width: 21.5 mm
Thickness: 1.7 mm
Weight: 4.92 g

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Other reference: SCC receipt 018621

Materials and construction

Primary material: Copper alloy
Manufacture method: Cast
Completeness: Incomplete

Spatial metadata

Region: South West (European Region)
County or Unitary authority: Somerset (County)
District: Taunton Deane (District)
To be known as: Staple Fitzpaine CP

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: From finder
Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 0.01 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector
General landuse: Cultivated land

Read, B., 2008 *Hooked-Clasps and Eyes* Langport: Portcullis Publishing 175-77 , 674

finds.org.uk