

TREASURE ACT 1996

SILVER BROOCH FROM AMBLESTON COMMUNITY, PEMBROKESHIRE [Treasure Receipt 19.27]



On 24 April 2019 Mr Kevin Higgs of Pembroke Dock discovered a brooch in Ambleston Community, Pembrokeshire. The brooch was deposited at the National Museum Cardiff on 24 April 2019. The brooch has been retained by the Department of History & Archaeology, National Museum Cardiff, on behalf of H.M. Coroner for Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire.

Circumstances and context of discovery

The brooch was found with the aid of a metal detector by Mr Higgs, during a metal detector club search, in a field under pasture, at a depth of about 20cm (8 inches). Full details of the findspot (NGR) and addresses of finder and landowners are provided on the Treasure Receipt form for this object.

Description

The reported object is a small annular brooch hoop (pin missing). The silver frame is of circular cross-section. One face is decorated with obliquely transverse incised lines inlaid with black niello for 50% of the circumference, and at least one group of the same on the other side.

External hoop diameter 19.8 x 16.5mm; hoop thickness 1.1 mm; brooch weight 0.64g.

The object has not undergone any cleaning or conservation.

Metal Content

To judge from its colour and weight and visual comparison with brooches and other silver dress accessories in the collections of the Department of History & Archaeology, the alloy is well in excess of 10% silver.

Summary and conclusions

In terms of size and design, the brooch is of thirteenth- to mid-fourteenth-century form. Brooches with similar forms have been found in deposits in London dated c.1270-1350 (eg Egan & Pritchard 1991, no. 1314). Examples from Wales include brooches from Trelawnyd & Gwaenysgor Community, Flintshire (Treasure case 16.16), St Brides, Vale of Glamorgan (TAR 2003, no. 411), Llantarnam (TAR 2003, no. 410), Llanfaes, Anglesey (Redknapp 1994, no.14), and Cilcain Community, Flintshire (Treasure (Wales) case 2017.11).

Conclusions

It is my opinion that as an object which has at least 10 per cent by weight precious

metal, and which is over 300 years old, the brooch qualifies as treasure under Section 1 (1) (a) of the Treasure Act 1996.

Scolton Manor Museum is interested in acquiring this item.

References

Egan, G. & Pritchard, F. 1991, *Dress Accessories 1150-1450* (The Boydell Press/Museum of London).

Redknap, M. 1994 'Some medieval brooches, pendants and moulds from Wales: a short survey', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* CXLIII, 92-138.

TAR 2003, *Treasure Annual Report 2003* (London, DCMS).

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