

TREASURE ACT 1996

Gold Ring from Cardigan Community, Ceredigion

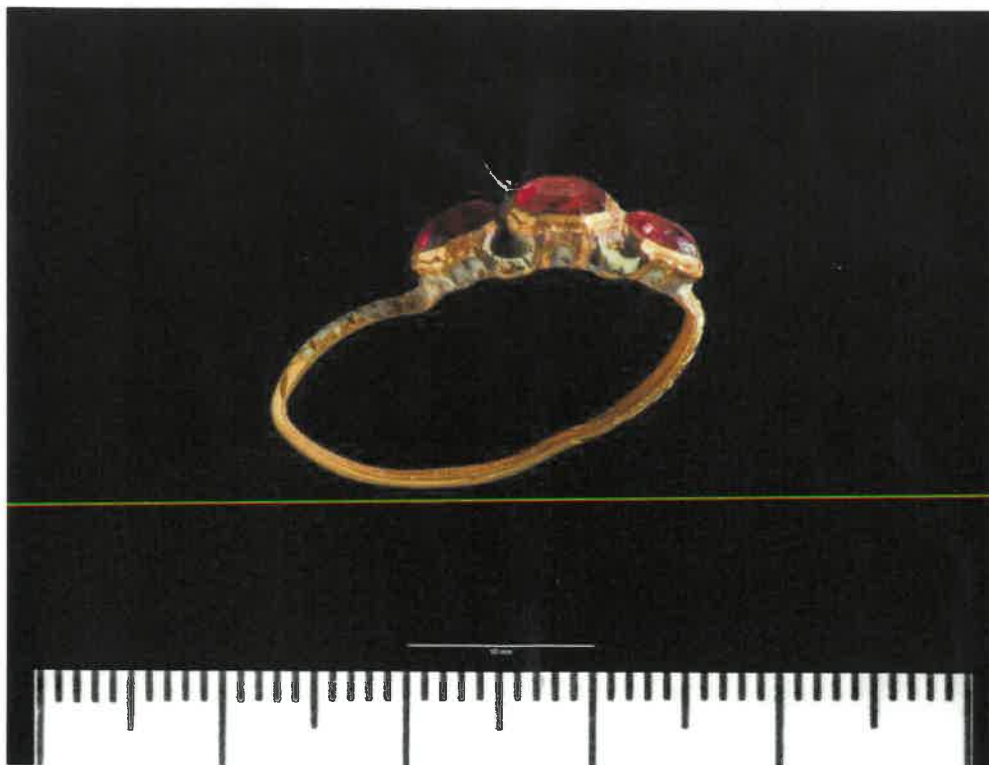
[Ref. No. 19.39]

A gold finger ring was found in Cardigan Community, Ceredigion, by Mr David Edwards, while metal detecting on 5 May 2019. The finger ring was first reported to the Coroner by the finder on 5th August 2019 and handed in to Jenna Smith at Dyfed Archaeological Trust on 8th August 2019.

The artefact was subsequently delivered to the Department of History & Archaeology at National Museum Cardiff on 13th September 2019, for safe-keeping and reporting. A treasure receipt was completed and sent to the Coroner on 24th January 2020. A revised and updated treasure receipt was later sent to the Coroner on 14th April 2021, upon notification of the death of one of the two joint landowners.

Circumstances and context of discovery

The gold ring was found with the aid of a metal detector by Mr Edwards on arable land, at a depth of about 3" (9cm). The grid reference for the find and full details of finder and landowner are provided on the Treasure Receipt Form.







Description

The ring is decorative ring with a large central bezel flanked by smaller bezels of similar design. Each is set with a table-cut pink stone (possibly paste). The hoop shoulders are engraved with foliate/trailing scrolls, inlaid with white enamel. There are the remains of small green leaves in decayed enamel punctuating the inter-bezel spaces. The inner face of the hoop is plain.

The thin hoop (which is misshapen) has a band width of 2.2 mm; a band thickness of 0.7 mm; a weight of 2.345g. The large bezel measures 6.9 x 6mm and is 3.8mm deep; the smaller bezels measure 5.9 x 5.7mm and are 3mm deep. The ring has not undergone any cleaning or conservation.

Metal Content

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

Summary and conclusions

The form of the ring, the style of the engraved decoration and the use of green and white enamel in combination indicate that it dates to the first half of the seventeenth century. Similar rings with slightly different arrangements of bezels include examples in the V&A (Scarbrick 2017, 250, figs 341, 343). A similar gold ring set with a large flat-topped central setting of either quartz or paste, flanked by smaller settings of probable glass over blue enamel, and decorated on the shoulders with white enamel, was discovered in 1998 at North Cliff Tenby, and dated to the late sixteenth or seventeenth century (Redknap 1998-99, 80). The enamelwork recalls that on rings in the Cheapside hoard (c. 1580-1640; Wheeler 1928; Forsyth 2003).

It is an object which has at least 10 per cent by weight precious metal, and which is at least 300 years old. It is, therefore, my opinion that it is Treasure under Section 1 (1) (a) of the Treasure Act 1996.

Ceredigion Museum is interested in acquiring this ring.

References

Forsyth, H. 2003, *The Cheapside Hoard* (Museum of London).

Redknap, M. 1998-99, '188. Tenby, Pembrokeshire: Post-medieval gold finger-ring', *Treasure Annual Report 1998-99* (DCMS, London), 80.

Scarbrick, D 2017, *Rings, Jewellery of Power, Love and Loyalty* (Thames and Hudson).

Wheeler, R. E. M. 1928; *The Cheapside Hoard of Elizabethan and Jacobean Jewellery* (London Museum).

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