

Local History: 15th Century Saints Ring

This ring was included with a group of items located by a metal detector on a farm in Alton and brought into the museum in 2002 where it is now on view.

It was identified as a 15th century ring of silver, with two Saints engraved on the flat part divided by a rib. The edges are decorated with a cable, chevron and rectangular designs.

Such items are called Iconographic rings because they carried the image of a Saint and they were numerous in the 15th century being worn to protect against misfortune. The most popular images engraved on such rings are those of St Barbara and St Christopher, as well as representations of the Virgin Mary and the Christ Child. Unfortunately the Saints on this ring are not clear enough to be identified.

