

Past Times

February A.D.2019

Chippenham & District Metal Detecting Club (CDMDC) Newsletter



WESTERN REGION NCMD METAL DETECTING CHARITY EVENT

This month saw the annual regional event take place at Grittleton, near Chippenham. This is the third successive event CDMDC has run, the previous two being club events. This latest event proved more successful in terms of both attendance and revenue generated for charity. Amongst the finds were medieval hammered and Roman silver coins. Contributing to the popularity of the event was a wealth of prizes in the prize draw and raffle. The flagship prize, a Minelab Equinox 800, was won by Tim Morris of

Weston Historical Research and Detecting Association (WHRADA). Nick Keeler presented Chippenham club with the regional trophy for running an excellent event at Grittleton for three consecutive years. The trophy was received by the Chairman, Terry Kearton.



Terry Kearton received the regional award on behalf of CDMDC.

FINDS OF THE MONTH



Carausius Radiate



1871 Victorian Shilling



Victorian Fob Seal



Unidentified Brooch

Finds were thinner on the ground this month, mainly due to the weather and unavailability of fields as a result of winter crops. Richie was lucky in both categories with his Roman Radiate coin and the stag-intaglio Victorian Fob Seal. Jon was close behind with a Victorian shilling and a beautiful, tiny brooch of some kind. Fingers crossed further research will determine exactly what it is.

Researching the Finds

Watch Seals and Fobs

An important accessory to the seventeenth and eighteenth century man, a watch fob and seal was an object directly attached to the chain of one's pocket watch. A watch chain was used to suspend one's watch from the waistcoat's "fob pocket," from which also hung the watch fob, usually with an attached seal at the bottom end of the fob. Fobs were often cone-like in form, attached to the watch chain with a metal loop at the narrow end of the fob. The seal was on the wide, circular end of the fob. In turn, fobs could also be purely decorative, without a seal.

Seals have been in existence for thousands of years, used to imprint not only decorative objects but also business documents. In certain societies your seal had its own "legal status...to lose it was far worse than losing your credit cards." A seal was your personal signature, which told whomever you were transacting business with that anything written in your letter was an authorized statement coming from you yourself personally. During the Medieval and Renaissance periods, seals were necessary for any valid business transaction, and since ancient times were generally worn on someone's person in the form of a ring.



However, signet rings fell out of fashion in the late seventeenth century due to the rise of the pocket watch and chain. Also during this time period the seal became less of a necessary tool and more of a decoration, yet still a useful decoration. Men were likely to carry bunches of "seals, keys, and trinkets from their watch chains." Watch fob seals could be worn by either men or women; however toward the end of the eighteenth century they became to be more associated with masculine dress.

Next Month

CDMDC will be visiting the Morovian Church in East Tytherton to assist with a local heritage project designed to uncover and record the history surrounding the Morovians, resident in the area from the mid-eighteenth century. We can expect to unearth some interesting finds at and around the site.



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