

Past Times

October A.D.2019

Chippenham & District Metal Detecting Club (CDMDC) Newsletter



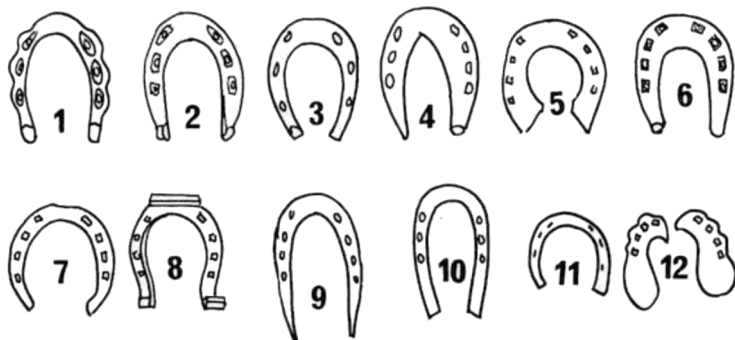
Horseshoes—A common find for detectorists!

While the inventors of the first nailed shoe may always remain a mystery, horseshoeing became a mainstream practice in Europe around 1000 AD. Cast from bronze, these early shoes were lightweight and had a scalloped outer rim with six nail holes.

As time passed, shoes gradually lost their scalloped appearance, held eight nail holes and were slightly heavier. In England, both horseshoes and coins were cast from iron, but the shoes were sometimes more valuable. During the Crusades of the 12th century, horseshoes were accepted in lieu of money to pay taxes. The cache provided shoes for mounts ridden during these holy wars.

Around this time, horseshoes also became synonymous with good fortune. On festive occasions a "lucky" silver shoe was lightly hammered onto a horse's hoof just before a parade, and the retriever won a prize. To ward off bad luck, shoes were often kept as talismans for fending off the devil, whose cloven hoof was injured by a wayward nail delivered by a chaste farrier. Starting in the 13th and 14th centuries, shoes were forged in large quantities and could be bought ready-made. To accommodate the larger feet of the cold-blooded draft horses used in trade, travel and war, shoes became wider and longer.

The practice of hot-shoeing became popular in Great Britain and France in the 16th century. Around this time, the term "farrier" gradually came into use from Latin roots, while the verb "ferrier" in French came to mean the process of shoeing horses. A book entitled No Foot, No Horse was written in England in 1751, coining the popular phrase noting the importance of proper shoeing.



Horse, ox, donkey and mule-shoe types: 1. Wavy rim (Celtic, Saxon and early Norman); 2. Norman shoe; 3. Dove shoe (medieval); 4. Guildhall shoe (medieval to Tudor); 5. Keyhole shoe (Tudor to Stuart); 6. Tongue shoe (Stuart to eighteenth century); 7. Toe-clip rim shoe (nineteenth to twentieth century); 8. Bar-clip draught shoe (nineteenth to twentieth century); 9. Mule-shoe; 10. Donkey-shoe; 11. Pony-shoe; 12. Ox-shoe.

Signet Rings

One club member was lucky enough to find a 15 carat gold Garnet stone signet ring last month hallmarked 1863. Known as the 'gentleman's ring', the signet ring is traditionally seen as a symbol of family heritage. However, it has been around longer than heraldry. For many centuries, the signet ring bore the family crest or coat of arms engraved in reverse so that it could be pressed into soft clay or wax and used as a seal on a document.

Sealing in this way was official, authentic and could not be forged. It was a form of identification. Because of this, signet rings are often referred to as 'seal rings'. The name comes from the Latin 'Signum' which means 'sign'.

Now, signet rings are worn by men and women from all walks of life who wish to exhibit style, or a sentimental connection with something or someone. This ring has been gifted to the landowner who has passed it on to a very happy daughter!



Club Contact Details

Chairman	Terry Kearton	01249 657290
Treasurer	Peter Amer	07771 976081
Secretary/Media	Richie Bennett	07565 453369

Website: <https://www.chippenhamanddistrictmdc.co.uk>

FINDS OF THE MONTH

October

Best Coin Winner:
Richie, Postumus
Roman Coin 226 AD



Best Coin Runner Up:
Tony, City Commemorative
325-330 AD



Best Artefact Joint Winner:
Tony, 13th C Heraldic Pendant



Best Artefact Joint Winner:
Jon, Roman Votive Axe Head



Best Artefact Runner Up:
Richie, Iron Age
Socketed Axe Head

