

The Thame Hoard

Members might be interested to learn of a recent well-illustrated article re-appraising a hoard in the Ashmolean Museum which was found in 1940 on the banks of a tributary of the River Thame on the border between Thame and Haddenham. First published in 1941 the hoard has been referred to in a number of subsequent papers. The latest paper is by Eleanor R Standley, 'Hid in the earth and secret places: a reassessment of a hoard of later medieval gold rings and silver coins found near the River Thame', published in *The Antiquaries Journal* 96 (2016), 117-142. The hoard contained ten silver groats, the latest dated 1445-54, and five rings including a splendid reliquary ring which might have contained a fragment of 'The True Cross'. The author differs with from a previous suggestion that the hoard's contents had belonged to the Abbott of Thame, and suggests instead that the objects might have originally been given by laymen to Notley Abbey, 'the wealthiest monastic community in Buckinghamshire ...' as '... votive offerings to one or more of the abbey's shrines'. She suggests that the objects may have been hidden in a 'memorable location' in order to prevent their being found by Cromwell's Commissioners at the Dissolution from c.1536.

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