

NOTE ON A GOLD RING FOUND AT
CHALFONT ST. PETER

Early in 1927 a gold ring of some interest was found at Chalfont St. Peter. A workman engaged on road improvements in the village unearthed the ring at a small depth. Unfortunately no proper record was taken at the time, and I did not see the ring myself. However, thanks to the kindness of Mr. Grove, I am able to give the accompanying photographs, and from them, and various information since obtained, a very fair account can be given.

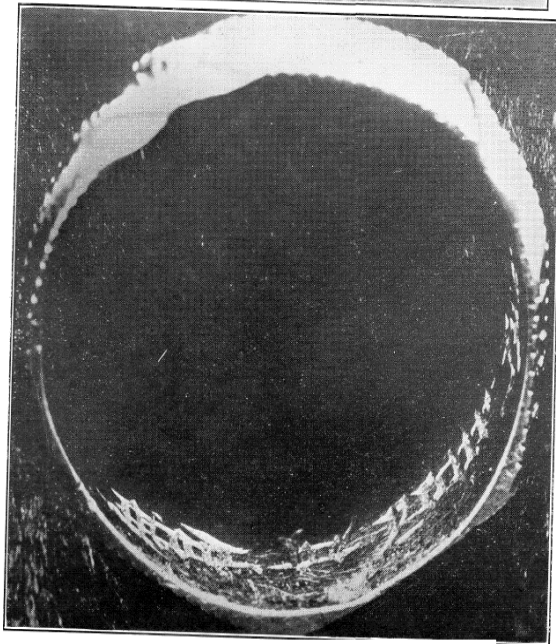
The ring belongs to a well-known type, known as Iconographic rings, fairly common from the late 13th to the 16th centuries. As to its actual size and weight I have no information. The photographs are, of course, much enlarged to show the details.

The round portion of the ring is ornamented with a spiral beading, and has beaded edges. These terminate in three flat planes. As can be seen from Fig. 1, the upper and lower of these are divided into three by beading, the panels being ornamented with four stars in relief and small lozenges or diamonds at the base. The central panel is occupied with engraved figure subjects. As is usual in this type of ring, the central figure represents the Virgin and Child; on the right (looking at the picture) is Saint Gabriel, and on the left, Saint Margaret. Rings with three panels are not as common as those with two and even one; but the Virgin is invariably represented.

As in most examples, the Chalfont specimen has an engraved motto on the inner surface. This can be partly seen in Fig. 2. It reads, "God be your spede." It is in black-letter characters. From this fact of the motto being in English, and from the presence of black letter characters, also from certain details of the figures, one can date the ring as belonging to the 15th century, probably the first half. The workmanship is English.

The ring was sold in London, and its present whereabouts are not known.

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Figs. 1 and 2. 15th Century Ring found at Chalfont St. Peter.