



Gold, History, and One Very Lucky Field

A Norfolk couple's passion for metal detecting has led to the discovery of two rare gold rings with remarkable historical links, uncovered just days apart in the same field close to their home.

The couple have been metal detecting together for around ten years and, weather and crops permitting, spend up to three hours a day searching farmland. They have been granted exclusive permission by a local farmer to search approximately 200 acres.

Using C.Scope metal detectors, CS3MX-I and CS4MX, they have uncovered many finds over the years, including hammered coins and interesting artefacts. Last September, however, brought an exceptional discovery. On the final dig of the day, a gold posy ring dating from the 17th/ 18th century was unearthed. The ring bears the rare inscription "LETT & LIVE BE THY GUIDE", wording museum specialists confirmed they had not previously seen.

Just one week later, and only around 100 yards from the first find, a second gold ring was discovered. Known as the Ward/Nelson ring, it is believed to date from between 1550 and 1650 and is thought to have been a family heirloom

belonging to the Ward family of nearby Trunch Hall.

Historical records link the Ward family to national history. Reverend Philip Ward later married Horatia Nelson, the daughter of Admiral Horatio Nelson and Lady Emma Hamilton, before the couple moved to Tenterden, in Kent.

Both rings were reported through the Portable Antiquities Scheme and assessed by museum specialists. The Ward/Nelson ring was declared



treasure due to its age, while the posy ring was not. It has been noted that the posy ring is thought to be from the 16/17th century. Neither discovery required an inquest.

The couple say "We love this wonderful hobby and where can

you get exercise, nature and your very own tardis machine to take you back to any century in History for free!" Their passion for the hobby has led the couple to launch a free local finding service within a five-mile radius of their home. They've already helped neighbours and friends recover six gold rings, a gold necklace with a pendant, and a pair of gold/diamond earrings.

With thanks to Mrs M.K Betts for providing the information on their finds and free finding service.

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