

SHAAS Metal Detecting Survey 2016-1 Spot Report 1

Date	3/4/2016
Site	SHAAS HON16
Survey No.	SHAAS 2016-1 Phase 1
Detectorist	John Turley
Detector / coil	Minelab Advantage / Coiltek 15" WOT
Conditions	Bright and mild. Soil moist to wet. Grass fairly short.

Introduction

The purpose of this spot report is to disseminate information quickly on a find of historical interest. Full details of all finds made during Phase 1 of the survey will be reported later.

Description

The find is a commemorative medal struck in bronze. Photographs of the obverse and reverse of the medal are shown in Figures 1 and 2.

The obverse of the medal depicts the diadem bust of Marie Louise Archduchess of Austria. Around the bust is a Latin inscription: M LUDOV ARCH AUSTR D G PARMA PLAC ET VAST DUX. Loosely translated this reads Marie Louise Archduchess of Austria by the Grace of God, Duchess of Parma, Piacenza and Guastalla.

The reverse of the medal depicts a scenic view of a bridge over a river. Below the scene in exergue is a Latin inscription: PONS EX LATERICIO LAPIDEUS ARDAE IMPOSITUS A(NNO) MDCCCXXXVI. Loosely translated this reads Bridge of Brick and Stone Erected on the Arda in the year of 1836. Below this in very small letters is inscribed: E GALLI F. This is believed to be the name of the maker or die engraver.

The medal is in good condition with only patches of light corrosion. The findspot was recorded using a high resolution GPS unit as E 558107.20 N 143276.50, at a depth of approximately 10cm. The medal is 56mm diameter and has a mass of 74g.

Remarks

The application of steam power to coin presses in the late 18th century gave rise to a marked improvement in the quality of struck coins. A notable example of this can be seen in the copper coins of Geo III produced by the industrialist Mathew Bolton at his Soho works in Birmingham. These improvements also made possible the manufacture of high quality larger pieces, which gave rise to an upsurge in the issue of a wide range of medals to commemorate important events, public works etc.

Marie Louise Archduchess of Austria was a member of the House of Habsburg. In 1810 she was persuaded to become the second wife of the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte in a politically arranged marriage. After the defeat of Napoleon in battle and his subsequent abdication and exile to Elba, she returned to Austria. The 1814 Treaty of Fontainebleau granted her the duchies of Parma, Piacenza, and Guastalla, where she lived and reigned as Duchess until her death in 1847.

John Turley
SHAAS Metal Detecting Supervisor
10th April 2016

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Figure 1. Obverse of commemorative medal



Figure 2. Reverse of commemorative medal