

Statue of St. Patrick



Item: Statue of St. Patrick

Date: Associated with 432

Find Location: Tara

Current Location: OPW Depot, Trim.

Description:

The statue, erected in Tara possibly in 1895 to commemorate the centenary of Maynooth Seminary, commemorated the events of 433AD when St. Patrick lit a bonfire on the nearby hill of Slane on the eve of Easter Sunday. The statue had been cast in concrete by local sculptor William Curry and had stood on the highest point of Tara for more than a century. Thomas Curry was born about 1821 and lived his life in Bridge Street, Navan. The statue was erected at his own expense. The body of the statue became pockmarked by bullet-holes and its hands went missing. It was removed from Tara in 1992 for refurbishment by the then OPW but in the removal the statue was damaged beyond repair. In 1992, the Office of Public Works advised the bishops of Meath that the condition of the original statue of St Patrick on the Hill of Tara had deteriorated beyond repair.

A local Committee to Restore St. Patrick to Tara was formed but in a competition for a replacement and unacceptable choice was made by the selection committee. Following a meeting with the minister, Dúchas were ordered to search Ireland to see if a suitable statue of St. Patrick was available elsewhere. Three years later, a statue donated by the Sisters of Charity went up on the site.

Archaeologist Dr Conor Newman, chairman of the Heritage Council, said the removal of the original statue of St Patrick from the Hill of Tara in 1992 was something that never should have happened

Further Information:

Michael Fortune *My Tara* (2012)

https://www.google.ie/?gws_rd=ssl#q=Statue+of+St.+Patrick+tara

<http://www.rte.ie/archives/exhibitions/923-st-patricks-day-as-seen-on-tv/505868-st-patrick-statue-controversy/>

Early Christian Ireland - Meath Virtual Museum – Noel French

Armlet



Item: Armlet

Date: 5th or 6th century AD

Find Location: Ballymahon, Castlerickard.

Current Location: National Museum of Ireland

Description:

Discovered during drainage work on the river Boyne in 1852, the armlet is made of yellow bronze. It was discovered at the junction of the Deel and Boyne rivers. It consists of two circular coils approximately 9cm in diameter, each coil terminating in a circular expansion. It originally had a third coil which is now missing. The terminal of the second ring and the joining point of the two rings are decorated with a whirling triskele design. The missing coil was broken off an attempt was made to re-attach it at some stage. There has been a suggestion that it was part of a royal regalia and may be a votive offering deposited in the river. The design shows a north of Britain influence.

Further Information:

Etienne Rynne 'The coiled bronze armlet from Ballymahon, Co. Meath' in *JRSAI* (1964) pp 69-72.

Frankish Gold Coin



Item: Frankish Gold Coin

Date: 7th century

Find Location: Trim

Current Location: National Museum of Ireland

Description:

The coin, known as a *tremissis* (equal to one third of a *solidus* and to the shilling of Anglo-Saxon England), is based on coins issued by the late Roman and Byzantine emperors and copied by successor states in Western Europe including the Franks and the Anglo-Saxons.

Measuring only 12mm across and weighing 1.16g, one face bears the image of a human head shown in profile wearing a crown or diadem and inscribed BELLO FAETO, the name of the mint, Beaufay, a town in mid-France lying north-east of Le Mans. The opposite face bears an equal-armed cross set on three steps and the name of the moneyer FREPMVND.

The coin was first mentioned by the Cork-based coin collector, John Lindsay in 1860 when he described it as being in the cabinet of the Very Rev. Richard Butler, Dean of Clonmacnoise and was said to have been found at Trim. It subsequently dropped out of sight and, although cited in the literature, its whereabouts was unknown.

The coin was being offered for sale by a US online auction house in October 2015 so the Museum successfully bid for it at the online auction.

Gold tremissis coins are common on the Continent and in Anglo-Saxon England but rare elsewhere – only one is known from Scotland. There are only two examples from Ireland – this one from Trim and a second found near Portlaois, now in the British Museum. They may have been treasured as amulets or keepsakes, combining the symbolism of imperial Rome and kingship (in the form of the bust) and Christianity (the cross). The coins may have been given as diplomatic gifts by a foreign trader or aristocrat. One potential candidate might be the young Frankish prince, Dagobert, who in 656 was sent to Ireland to be educated in the monastery of Rath Melsigi (identified as Slane, Co. Meath or Clonmelsh, Co. Carlow). As Dagobert II he briefly ruled the eastern Frankish kingdom of Austrasia (a territory including much of north eastern France and the lower Rhineland) between 676 and 679.

Further Information:

<http://www.museum.ie/Corporate-Media/News/March-2016/Rare-Frankish-Gold-Coin-Resurfaces>

Castletown Kilpatrick Pin



Item: Pin

Date: Late sixth/early seventh century

Find Location: Castletown-Kilpatrick

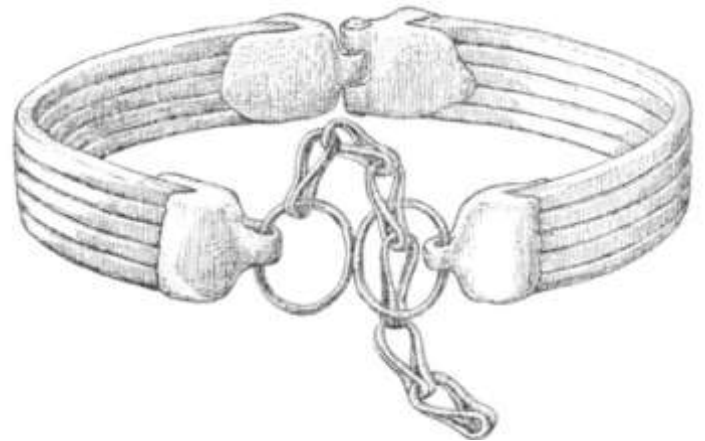
Current Location: National Museum of Ireland

Description:

Late fourth/early fifth century found in 1848 the larger is known as a hand pin, its head resembling the palm of the hand with the fingers bent forward, the larger with the beaded rim is an ancestral form. The fine-line spiral patterns on both pinheads derive from contemporary Celtic metalwork, were originally highlighted in red enamel. Silver hand pins are rare but examples in bronze with elaborately decorated heads were made in Ireland into the sixth century.

Further Information:

Slave Collars



Item: Slave Collars

Date: c. 651 A.D.

Find Location: Lagore, Dunshaughlin.

Current Location: National Museum of Ireland, Dublin.

Description:

Two slave collars discovered at the lowest occupation strata at Lagore crannog. Two piece decorated iron collar with its attachment chain. A hinged collar decorated on the sides with inset pieces of twisted iron. The collar is secured by passing the chain through the inner loop. The long chain attached to the collar is in a similar style to that of late Roman Britain while the collar decoration suggest Anglo-Saxon workmanship. It is suggested that the collar halves was made by two different smiths at two different times. Hostages - or else favourite dogs - seem more likely than slaves to wear such fine work.

Further Information:

B.G. Scott, "Iron 'slave-collars' from Lagore Crannog, Co Meath" *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* C 78, (1978) pp 213-30.

Hugh Hencken, 'Lagore Crannog: An Irish Royal Residence of the 7th to 10th centuries AD' in *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* (November 1950)

Gold Filigree Panel



Item: Filigree Panel

Date: Seventh Century

Find Location: Lagore, Dunshaughlin

Current Location: National Museum of Ireland

Description:

An experimental piece of gold filigree from Lagore Crannog, County Meath, shows at some point in the seventh century an Irish craftsman attempting to approximate elaborate filigree effects common on Anglo-Saxon work. Towards the end of the seventh century a change in Irish personal ornament takes place with the appearance of a kind of brooch that is often referred to as pseudo-penannular or more simply as the "Tara" type. The fashion is best represented by the two finest and probably earliest of the series—the so-called Tara Brooch (from Bettystown, Co. Meath) and the Hunterston Brooch found in Ayrshire in Scotland. The ornamental possibilities were seized upon by the best craftsmen who had at their disposal not only a new range of techniques but also a new hybrid art style that combined animal ornament of Germanic origin with scrollwork in the Ultimate La Tene tradition, with plain interlace from the Mediterranean world—probably Italy—and Christian iconographical themes although these are very subtle. The Tara and Hunterston Brooch stand very close to the style of the Lindisfarne Gospels and are probably to be dated to the late seventh or very early eighth century.

Further Information:

<http://what-when-how.com/medieval-ireland/jewelry-and-personal-ornament-medieval-ireland/>

Tara Brooch



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Item: Brooch

Date: c 700 A.D.

Find Location: Bettystown

Current Location: National Museum of Ireland

Description:

This brooch was found not in Tara but near the seashore at Bettystown, Co. Meath, in 1850. It was found near the sea-shore, by the child of a poor woman, who afterwards sold it in Drogheda. The story goes that she found it in a box buried in the sand, though many believe the brooch was actually found inland but the woman's family altered the facts to avoid a legal dispute with a landowner. Its provenance was attributed to Tara by a dealer in order to increase its value. It is made of cast and gilt silver and is elaborately decorated on both faces. The front is ornamented with a series of exceptionally fine gold filigree panels depicting animal and abstract motifs that are separated by studs of glass, enamel and amber. The back is flatter than the front, and the decoration is cast. The motifs consist of scrolls and triple spirals and recall La Tène decoration of the Iron Age. A silver chain made of plaited wire is attached to the brooch by means of a swivel attachment. This feature is formed of animal heads framing two tiny cast glass human heads.

Further Information:

[http://www.museum.ie/Archaeology/Exhibitions/Current-Exhibitions/The-Treasury/Gallery-1-Iron-Age-to-12th-Century/Tara-Brooch-\(1\)](http://www.museum.ie/Archaeology/Exhibitions/Current-Exhibitions/The-Treasury/Gallery-1-Iron-Age-to-12th-Century/Tara-Brooch-(1))

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-jBovahy4g>

<http://www.bernards.cz/english/the-tara-brooch-one-of-ireland%E2%80%99s-greatest-treasures-explained-id2015010002>

Book of Kells



Item: Book of Kells

Date: c. 800 AD

Find Location: Kells

Current Location: Old Library, Trinity College, College St, Dublin 2

Description:

The Book of Kells (Trinity College Dublin MS 58) contains the four Gospels in Latin based on the Vulgate text which St Jerome completed in 384AD, intermixed with readings from the earlier Old Latin translation. The Gospel texts are prefaced by other texts, including "canon tables", or concordances of Gospel passages common to two or more of the evangelists; summaries of the gospel narratives (Breves causae); and prefaces characterizing the evangelists (Argumenta).

The book is written on vellum (prepared calfskin) in a bold and expert version of the script known as "insular majuscule". It contains 340 folios, now measuring approximately 330 x 255 mm; they were severely trimmed, and their edges gilded, in the course of rebinding in the 19th century.

The most famous of its manuscripts, the Book of Kells and the Book of Durrow, were presented by Henry Jones, Bishop of Meath and former vice-chancellor of the University, in the 1660s.

Further Information:

All 677 pages (340 folio) of the ninth-century Book of Kells have now been digitised and made available online by the Library of Trinity College Dublin, where the book has been housed since 1661. The digital images can be viewed via the library's website at:

http://digitalcollections.tcd.ie/home/index.php?DRIS_ID=MS58_003v

<https://www.tcd.ie/visitors/book-of-kells/>

Donore Door Handle



Item: Door Handle

Date: Early eight century

Find Location: Donore, Moynalty

Current Location: National Museum of Ireland

Description:

Copper alloy disc with animal-headed handle, discovered in advance of drainage works on the river Borora in 1984 and entered the National Museum of Ireland's collection in 1985. Made of bronze, the handle is elaborately carved in the shape of a beast with a free moving ring through its teeth. The mount is decorated with spiral, elongated animal shapes and abstract patterns. These designs are similar in style to the Lindisfarne Gospels. It is likely that the handle came from a religious building rather than a secular one.

Further Information:

Michael Ryan 'The Donore Hoard: early medieval metalwork from Moynaltt, near Kells, Ireland ' in *Antiquity*, 61, (1987) pp 57-63.

S. Youngs, *Work of Angels, Masterpieces of Celtic Metalwork 6th-9th Centuries AD*. (1989) British Museum Press. Cat.64

Harness Mounts



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Item: Gilt Bronze Harness Mounts

Date: 8-9th Century

Find Location: Athlumney, Navan

Current Location: National Museum of Ireland

Description:

In 1848 a branch of the Dublin and Drogheda railway was being laid to Navan. Below Athlumney Castle "on the eastern side of the river were discovered a quantity of most interesting antiquities, bridle bits and horse trappings of iron, bronze and silver, rings, buckles, head stalls, pettrels and clasps besides a large collection of bones both human and those of lower animals". These remains were taken to the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy. A very perfect human skull and fragments of two others were found. These were found by Mr. Wakeman, a writer and antiquarian. Sir William Wilde also noted that "The only perfect head, found was sent out of the country, it was given to the late Dr. Prichard, immediately before his death, and no account of it has since appeared".

This has been suggested as the burial of a Viking warrior. A Scandinavian presence is suggested in Athlumney by a horse skeleton that was found with a collection of horse furnishings and some human bones suggests that the burial may be linked to the base at Rossnaree. However, it is more likely that the burial – accompanied with a mount, a bridle-bit, four bronze-plated iron rings and seven decorated plaques – belonged to a settlement, possibly a longphort site, at Athlumney on the eastern bank of the River Boyne. Clinton interprets the burial as being female which would imply a more permanent type of settlement whereas Harrison believes that the presence of a large amount of horse bones indicates the ritual deposition a male with a horse burial. Either way, it is more likely that this burial occurred in an area – where the rivers Blackwater and Boyne merge – that featured some form of Scandinavian settlement in the ninth century.

Further Information:

<http://www.navanhistory.ie/index.php?page=viking-burial>

Stephen Harrison, 'Viking graves and grave-goods in Ireland', in A. Larsen (ed.) *The Vikings in Ireland*, (2001) pp 61-75.

Mark Clinton, 'Settlement dynamics in Co. Meath: the kingdom of Lóegaire' in *Peritia*, xiv, (2000), pp 372-405.

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Brooch



Item: Pseudo-Penannular Brooch

Date: 8th/9th century

Find Location: Hill of Tara/ Skryne

Current Location: British Museum

Description:

Silver pseudo-penannular brooch. Slender hoop, at the apex two panels of gilt interlace framing an empty rectangular setting. The junction with the expanded terminals is marked by deep circular settings for amber, one piece remaining. The centre of each terminal has a raised subtriangular field subdivided into five panels - an empty central lozenge with four irregular panels each with a profile animal. Each terminal has a flat border of repetitive interlace and is gilded overall. Two thin strips and an empty rectangular setting link the terminals. The pinhead, which is a separate casting riveted to the shank, has an empty central lozenge framed by cast beading and simple interlace and four empty settings. A border of c-scrolls and billets gives the head a falsely cusped appearance. Acquired by British Museum in 1893.

Further Information:

Bibliography: Smith, R.A. 1914. Irish Brooches of Five Centuries, 'Archaeologia' LXV, 248, pl. XXVI, no. 7.

Whitfield, N., 1995, 'Formal conventions in the depiction of animals on Celtic metalwork', in C. Bourke (ed.), "From the Isles of the North. Early Medieval Art in Ireland and Britain", Belfast, pp. 89-104, at p. 90. fig. 4a.

Bell - Dunboyne



Item: Bell

Date: 8/9th century

Find Location: Dunboyne

Current Location: National Museum of Ireland

Description:

The Dunboyne Bell, which was found by Eamonn Walsh of Courthill, Dunboyne, in a nearby field in Kilbrennan in 1972. The bell, which dates back to the 8th or 9th century, is made of iron and was coated in bronze. The bell was found along with seven human remains and is associated with an early Christian community in Dunboyne. The handle was intact but the clapper was missing. Forged from a single sheet of iron, folded along the side and held together by means of six rivets. The mouth of the bell is flanged internally. It is presumed that the bronze was applied to the iron by means of dipping. The Dunboyne Bell in its refurbished state is on display in the National Museum in Dublin. Made around the AD 500s–900s, hand-bells were used to call monks to prayer in Irish monasteries. The earliest bells were made from wrought iron sheets that were folded and riveted into shape, then brazed with copper alloy. This process was incredibly labour-intensive, requiring plenty of time, raw materials and technological skill. Contemporary carvings show figures with croziers – the symbolic hooked staffs of holy office – also carrying hand-bells, suggesting that the latter too were symbols of high standing in the Irish church.

Further Information:

<http://www.port64.com/parish/index.php/parish-history>

<https://blog.britishmuseum.org/2014/04/14/holy-hand-bells-the-endless-histories-of-irish-relics/>

Cormac Bourke, 'Early Irish hand-bells' in *J.R.S.A.I* vol. 110 (1980) pp 52-66.

Hand Bell



Item: Handbell

Date: Ninth Century

Find Location: Co. Meath

Current Location: The Hunt Museum

Description:

A ninth century bronze bell which is four-sided and rounded at the edges. It is splayed at the mouth and tapers towards the crown. The handle is not original and the clapper is missing. The bell was found in Co. Meath.

Further Information:

Shrine



Item: Fragments of a house shaped shrine (Photo: National Museum of Ireland)

Date: Ninth Century

Find Location: Clonard

Current Location: National Museum of Ireland

Description:

Fragments of a house shaped shrine were found during drainage work in the early nineteenth century. These house shaped shrines were originally designed to receive relics of the saints. The fragments consist of two sheets of bronze and a decorated disc of cast bronze. The long side was decorated with a pair of medallions of which one survives.

Further Information:

Ragnall Ó Floinn 'A Fragmentary House-Shaped Shrine from Clonard, Co. Meath' *The Journal of Irish Archaeology* Vol. 5 (1989/1990), pp. 49-55

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~clonardns/finiansfolder/Finianofclonard.htm>

Clonard Bucket



nef

Item: Bucket

Date: Ninth Century

Find Location: Clonard

Current Location: National Museum of Ireland

Description:

A small wooden bucket decorated with bronze work dating from the eighth or ninth century, discovered during drainage works. In the 1830s, work on the Kinnegad River near Clonard revealed a highly ornate Early Christian bucket with bronze bands and amber insets bound with filigree and decorated bands of bronze. The bucket measured 14cm in height and had been carved from a single block of yew with a separate base. Around forty similar buckets are known from Ireland and Scandinavia. The Scandinavian examples originate mainly from graves dating to the ninth and tenth centuries while the Irish ones are mainly found in rivers and bogs. A few are also known from domestic sites of between the eighth and tenth centuries. The highly decorated character of the Clonard bucket suggests that it may have served an ecclesiastical ceremonial function, possibly as a dispenser for wine or holy water. The proximity of the find spot to St. Finian's monastery of Clonard would support such a theory (O'Floinn 1983). In association with the bucket, a Dutch box was found containing coins from the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1558–1603), James II brass money from the Jacobite War (1688–90) and coinage of William and Mary, the latest of which dated to 1694. This suggests that the bucket was deposited for safekeeping sometime after that date.

The small size of these vessels would suggest that they were used for serving liquid in small quantities- perhaps wine.

Further Information:

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Whalebone Sword Hilt



Item: Whalebone Sword Hilt

Date: 9th Century

Find Location: Collierstown, Skryne.

Current Location: National

Description:

A whalebone sword hilt in two pieces was recovered from the same deposit as the PRSW and E-ware i.e. mid-6th century AD. Collierstown 1 excavated in advance of the M3 road scheme, was a cemetery that was utilised from potentially the mid fifth until the late ninth century. A 3rd century AD Latin verse noted Irish men 'who cultivate elegance adorn the hilts of their swords with the tusks of great sea-animals' tusks probably extended to whalebone, which was rare and valued as a raw material. whalebone has been found on Early Medieval sites such as Raheens, Co. Cork, Rathmullan, Co. Down, Inishkea, Co. Mayo and Lough Faughaun crannog, Co. Down. Although it is possible that these were hunted, it seems more likely that they represent the use of accidentally stranded animals, for example in A.D. 753, the 'Annals of Ulster' note that a whale (with three gold teeth) was cast ashore at Bairche in Ulster. In contrast, for A.D. 827, there is a reference to a 'great pig-slaughter of sea-pigs (probably porpoises) by the foreigners' on the coast of Ard-Cianachta (in modern Co. Louth, on Ireland's east coast). This could again simply represent the opportunistic slaughter of a large group of stranded animals, but it may also imply hunting out at sea using boats and harpoons.

Further Information:

O'Hara, R. 2008 Collierstown, Co. Meath. *Medieval Archaeology*, 58, 367–373.

O'Hara, R. 2009a. Report on the Archaeological Excavation of Collierstown 1, Co. Meath. Unpublished report prepared for Archaeological Consultancy Services Ltd. Available at www.m3motorway.ie

https://www.google.ie/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwj0i_PVoZfRAhXHKcAKHbizC_8QFggqMAI&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.heritagecouncil.ie%2Ffileadmin%2Fuser_upload%2FINSTAR_Database%2FAR01055_EMAP_Collierstown_Cemetery_4-4_10.pdf&usq=AFQjCNGaVbcrg6u_FMfU7EFP6AftVqN7Tw&bvm=bv.142059868,d.ZGg

Early Christian Ireland - Meath Virtual Museum – Noel French

Early Medieval Ireland: Archaeological Excavations 1930-2004

Kells Crozier



wiki

Item: Crozier

Date: 9th-11th century

Find Location: Kells

Current Location: British Museum

Description:

The Kells Crozier was made by various craftsmen over at least two different periods between the late 9th and 11th century AD. The crozier is composed of a wooden core of yew wood which has been encased in copper-alloy sheets. These have been secured by nailing the sheets onto the wooden core and which are further secured through a series of three metalwork knops. The decoration of these knops features a series of zoomorphic interlace and knot-work, dating to the ninth or tenth-century. In the eleventh century a new knop decorated with black niello and silver inlay in the Scandinavian Ringerike style replaced an earlier one at the top of the shaft. The curved crest of the crook is elaborately decorated with interlinking birds; where this meets the straight end of the crook a human head appears. Its total length measures about 133 cm.

The crozier bears an inscription in mixed Latin and the old Irish language on the interior arch of its crook reading, 'OR DO CONDUILIG OCUS DO MELFINNEN', which, roughly translated, asks supplicants to pray for Cúduilig and Maelfinnén who were involved in its refurbishment. Scholars have identified these names with individuals who were connected with the important Irish monastic settlement at Kells. George Pertrie identified the names as belonging to ecclesiastical figures from Kells whereas Marie Mac Dermott and Perette Michelli have suggested the royal heir of Cashel, Cú Duilig. The crozier was discovered behind the cupboard of a London solicitor's office in 1850. This cupboard had not been moved for sixty years previously. The crozier subsequently belonged to several owners (including Cardinal Wiseman) before being purchased by the British Museum in 1859. In 2000 a replica of the crozier was made and exhibited in Kells.

Further Information:

Early Christian Ireland - Meath Virtual Museum – Noel French

Metal Working



Item: Lead model for ringed pin, bone motif piece and crucible

Date: 9th/10th century

Find Location: Lagore Crannog, Dunshaughlin.

Current Location: National Museum of Ireland

Description:

The lead alloy model was used in the manufacture of ringed pins which would have been pressed into the clay mould from which the finished product would have been cast. The interlace design on the bone motif piece is very close to that of the unprovenanced (No locality given) mount (6) some of the bone motif used as a model. Designs on bone originals may have been used for the casting of clay moulds.

Further Information:

Comber, Michelle: Lagore Crannóg and non-ferrous metalworking in Early Historic Ireland, 101-114 *JIA* VIII (1997) *The Journal Of Irish Archaeology*

Ingot Mould



Item: Stone Ingot Mould

Date: 9th/10th century

Find Location: Moynagh, Nobber.

Current Location: National Museum of Ireland

Description:

Coins, Gold and silver ornaments was melted down to form bullion. Ingots were a convenient way of storing the precious metal. The metal was melted in clay crucibles and then cast in simple stone moulds. Owen Smith, a Nobber farmer, excavated at Moynagh Lough in 1886 and this was one of the items he discovered.

At Moynagh Lough two metalworking areas were uncovered during excavations in recent decades. Clay moulds were also uncovered. Copper may also have been created into ingots. Among the objects recovered at Moynagh Lough in 1987 were crucible shards, heating tray fragments, clay mould fragments and a lump of yellow enamel. The production period for Moynagh Lough was dated on stylistic grounds between c 690 and c 720 AD.

Further Information:

Bradley, J. 1982-3. Excavations at Moynagh Lough, Co. Meath 1980-81: interim report. *Ríocht na Mídhe*, 7(2), 12-32.

Bradley, J. 1984. Excavations at Moynagh Lough, Co. Meath 1982-83: interim report. *Ríocht na Mídhe*, 7(3), 86-93.

Bradley, J. 1985-6. Excavations at Moynagh Lough, Co. Meath 1984: a summary report'. *Ríocht na Mídhe*, 7(4), 79-82.

Bradley, J. 1990-1. Excavations at Moynagh Lough, Co. Meath, 1985 and 1987. *Ríocht na Mídhe*, 8 (3), 21-35.

Bradley, J. 1994-5. Excavations at Moynagh Lough, Co. Meath. *Ríocht na Mídhe*, 9(1), 158-69.

Bradley, J. 1997. Archaeological excavations at Moynagh Lough, Co. Meath 1995-96. *Ríocht na Mídhe* 9(3), 50-61

Silver Hoard



Item: Hack Silver Hoard

Date: 9th/10th Century

Find Location: Loughcrew

Current Location: National Museum of Ireland

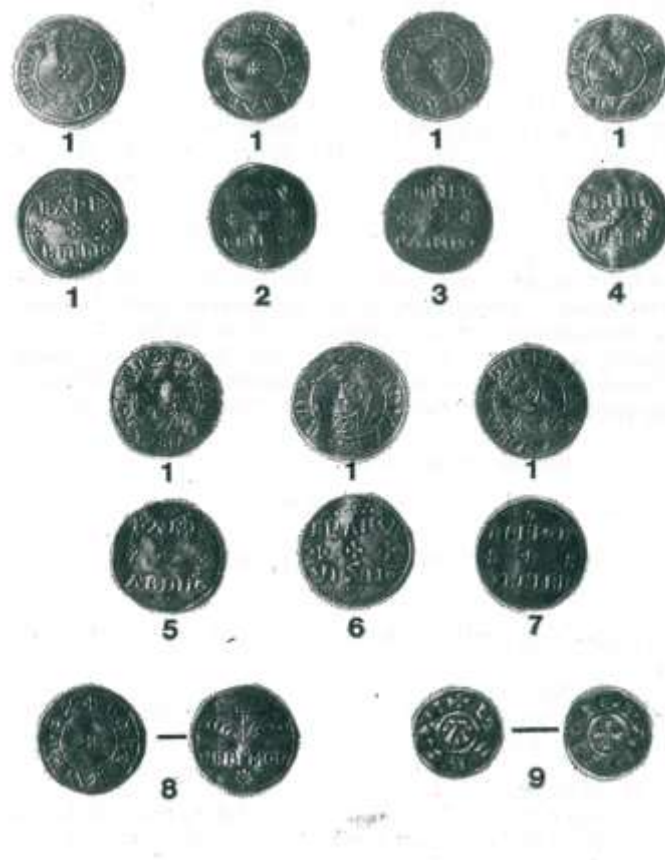
Description:

The Loughcrew find, from a crannog on Lough Creeve, consists simply of two complete ingots and a brooch fragment. When complete, however, this brooch would have been an exceptionally large example of a Norwegian variant on a Baltic penannular brooch type that is characterised by faceted hoop- and terminal knobs terminal knobs, together with stamped decoration. The type is of rare occurrence in the west, although one other silver fragment is on record from Ireland, although unfortunately unprovenanced. Ornaments and coins were cut up into hack silver and weighed on portable folding balance scales. Sometimes hack silver was buried in the ground for safety.

Further Information:

Sheehan, J. and Graham-Campbell, J. (2009) 'Viking-age gold and silver from Irish crannogs and other watery places', *Journal of Irish Archaeology*, 18, pp. 77-93.

Leggagh Coin Hoard



Item: Anglo-Saxon Coins

Date: Possibly deposited about 923

Find Location: Leggagh, Nobber

Current Location: National Museum of Ireland

Description:

Discovered in a sandpit near Nobber about 1843 the hoard included eight coins from Edward the Elder, 899-924, a coin minted by the Danes of East Anglia and a tenth coin since lost a Kufic dirham from Samarkand. It is thought that Islamic coins came to Ireland, via Scandinavia.

Anglo-Saxon coins have also been discovered at Fennor, Fourknocks, Killyon Manor, Knowth, Lagore and Oldcastle.

Further Information:

Michael Dolley, 'The C.1843 Leggagh (Nobber) coin-hoard reconsidered' in *Ríocht na Míche* V, 2, (1972) pp 14-22.

Crozier



Item: Crozier

Date: Eleventh century

Find Location: Clonard

Current Location: National Museum of Ireland

Description:

Cast copper alloy crozier head, measuring 17.7 cm in height, is well worn. The crozier was recorded as being found in Clonard in the Minutes of the Royal Irish Academy. The crozier consists of a bionical knop surmounted by a bronze crook with a rectangular drop. Traces of decoration on the crook show strips of metal arranged in a lozenge-shaped pattern. These croziers were made as shrines to contain the staff of the saint. Croziers such as this were symbols of power and authority. Many date to a period of political upheaval, when the Irish Church was undergoing reform. This reform led to competition between the larger monasteries as they strove to become the new diocesan centres. Lavish church treasures such as croziers and other shrines were commissioned at this time, partly to reinforce the claims of particular monastic centres and their secular patrons

Further Information:

Ragnall Ó Floinn, 'A crozier head from Clonard' in T. Condit and C. Corlett (eds), *Above and Beyond: essays in memory of Leo Swan* (Bray, 2005), pp 333-42