

# Ussher Medal



(No image available)

**Item:** Lead Medal obverse only

**Date:** 1820 Associated with 1625

**Find Location:** Dublin – Subject was Bishop of Meath

**Current Location:** British Museum

## **Description:**

Gold Lead medal; obverse only. (obverse) Bust of Archbishop James Ussher, right, wearing gown, stiff ruff, and cap on the head. Engraved by William Stephen Mossop.

Acquired by British Museum in 1849. *Medallic Illustrations* 1, published in 1885, states: Rare. This medal was engraved in Dublin by the younger Mossop in 1820, who was prevented by illness from executing a reverse, or hardening the die of the obverse. None therefore were struck except in soft metal. It was one of an intended series of celebrated persons connected with Ireland. Hawkins states (1885): “James Ussher, the learned and distinguished Irish prelate, born 1580, was consecrated in 1620 Bishop of Meath, and in 1625 translated by James I to the Archbishopric of Armagh. He came to England in 1640, and the rebellion in the next year preventing his return to Ireland, Charles I conferred upon him the bishopric of Carlisle. He vainly endeavoured to assist Charles in making a treaty with the Parliament at the Isle of Wight, and afterwards witnessed the King's last moments on the scaffold, from the shock of which he never recovered. He calculated the date of the Creation to have been nightfall on 22 October 4004 BC. Ussher's chronology represented a considerable feat of scholarship: it demanded great depth of learning in what was then known of ancient history, including the rise of the Persians, Greeks and Romans, as well as expertise in the Bible, biblical languages, astronomy, ancient calendars and chronology. He died 21 March, 1656.”

## **Further Information:**

Alan Ford, *James Ussher: Theology, History, and Politics in early-modern Ireland and England* Oxford University Press (2007)

Richard Snoddy, *The Soteriology of James Ussher: The Act and Object of Saving Faith*, Oxford University Press (2014)

Knox, R. Buck (1967), *James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh*, University of Wales Press

# Scurlogstown Hoard



**Item:** Silver coins of Charles I (1625-49)

**Date:** 1625-49

**Find Location:** Scurlogstown

**Current Location:** National Museum of Ireland

## **Description:**

In the Ireland of the 1640s there was a huge amount of uncertainty due to the military conflict, famine and forced movement of people. Hoarding increases during periods of uncertainty. Meath suffered during this period.

These coins of Charles I were discovered at Scurlockstown in 1946 but all other details of the find circumstances are not known. The hoard included three coins, two shillings and one halfcrown.

## **Further Information:**

Michael Kenny, 'Silver coins of Charles I (1625-49), found at Scurlockstown, Trim', *Ríocht na Mídhe* IX, 1 (1994-1995) pp 22-23.

# Coin Hoard – Navan



**Item:** Coin Hoard - Inchiquin and Ormonde money from find illustrated

**Date:** pre 1645

**Find Location:** Abbeylands, Navan.

**Current Location:** National Museum of Ireland

## **Description:**

Hoard of 474 silver coins the latest being of Charles 1 (1645) found at Abbeylands, Navan, Co. Meath, found on 17 June 1921 during the cleaning out of a ditch in a black-glazed crock. 29 coins of Edward VI to Charles I, and a further find of 446 additional coins belonging to the same hoard, Edward VI to Charles I, 3 Scottish and 12 Spanish. Deposited after 1645.

The most interesting coins discovered in the Navan find were the Inchiquin and Ormonde money. During the period of the Great Rebellion in Ireland and the English Civil War a number of crudely made local coinages were produced in Ireland, mostly in Dublin. These coinage were almost exclusively of silver plate cut and struck into a number of denominations with simple patterns including often their weight or value. Most common among these issues is the 'Ormonde Money' issued by the Lord Justice the Earl of Ormond in about 1642-1645. The Inchiquin money (top illustration) was struck under the authority of the Lord Justices of Ireland in about 1642. This coin was struck on each side from the same punch - therefore the coin was made in two strikings not just one. It was originally believed that these coins were issued by Lord Inchiquin, but their issue by the Lord Justices in 1642 is now well established.

## **Further Information:**

E. C. R. Armstrong, 'Treasure Trove find in Co. Meath, Ireland' in *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Sixth Series, Vol. 11, No. 1, June 30th 1921, pp. 78-79.

<http://www.navanhistory.ie/index.php?page=abbeyland-hoard>

# Chalice



**Item:** Chalice

**Date:** 1635

**Find Location:** Crossdrum, Oldcastle.

**Current Location:** Fordham University, New York, U.S.A.

## Description:

The Chalice of Crossdrum was found in 1750 in Crossdrum, in a souterrain, beside a priest's skeleton, along with other liturgical items, including a chasuble, altar-stone, crucifix and candlesticks. It is a small silver vessel, less than seven inches in height with an hexagonal base. Three of the sides of the base bear symbolic decorations, crudely etched. The front shows a figure of the Crucifixion, from which the cross is curiously omitted, surrounded by the instruments of the Passion and surmounted by an oddly conceived moon and stars. One of the sides shows a device representing a branch with acorns growing on it; the device on the other side is more difficult to classify. Around the base is the inscription in the quaint lettering of the period: 'Ora pro Stephano Cook et Elizabetha eius uxore et Maria filia 1635' (Pray for Stephen Cooke and Elizabeth his wife and Mary his daughter.)

The man who made the discovery, Hugh Reilly, handed the discovery over to his brother, the Rev. Bartholomew Reilly, a parish priest in Co. Meath. The chalice and paten were subsequently passed from Rev. Bartholomew Reilly to Fr. Owen Reilly, the former's uncle, on the event of his death in 1782. Fr. Owen Reilly died in 1784. Debate surrounds the location of the chalice after Fr. Owen Reilly's ownership.

The chalice resurfaced in 1832, under the possession of Rev. George McDermot, parish priest of Oldcastle. The chalice was kept in the parish, coming under the ownership of Father George Leonard, the successor parish priest. Fr. Leonard died in 1877, at the age of 85. The chalice then passed to Leonard's nephew, Fr. Thomas Fagan and then passed to Fr. Fagan's nephew, the Very Rev. Thomas Gaffney in Vermont. Fr. Gaffney, in his will, left the chalice in the hands of Fr. James A. Taaffe, S.J., of Fordham University.

## Further Information:

Thomas Taaffe, 'The Crossdrum Chalice.' in *Historical Records and Studies*, Vol. 5. New York: United States Catholic Historical Society, (1909) pp 186-94.

Philip O'Connell, 'The Crossdrum Chalice' in *The Irish Ecclesiastical Record* (February, 1947) pp 125-34

John Smith *The Oldcastle Centenary Book - a History of Oldcastle* (Oldcastle, 2004)

# Cannon Ball



**Item:** Stone Cannonball

**Date:** 1649? Probably 16th/17th-century

**Find Location:** Drogheda area

**Current Location:** Drogheda area

**Description:**

Stone cannonball found in Bryanstown, Drogheda, Co. Meath. Cannonballs were made in early times from dressed stone, referred to as gunstone. Stone cannonballs were used during the Civil War in England, 1644 to 1646.

This cannonball may date from Cromwell's siege of Drogheda. The siege of Drogheda took place on 3–11 September 1649 at the outset of the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland. The coastal town of Drogheda was held by the Irish Catholic Confederation and English Royalists under the command of Arthur Aston when it was besieged by Parliamentary forces under Oliver Cromwell. Thank you to John McCullen for this item.

**Further Information:**

# Trim Token



**Item:** Token

**Date:** 1663

**Find Location:** Trim

**Current Location:** National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks

## **Description:**

Token produced in Trim in 1663 by merchant, George Harris. Coin marked with GH. In 1660 George Harris was one of the people nominated by Trim Corporation to tax the parish of Trim towards the repairing of St. Patrick's Church. Other merchants who issued tokens in Trim at this time include: Patrick Heylan, Patrick Clinton and James Kelly.

Tokens were issued by merchants. Most tokens of this period were issued in the eastern two thirds of Ireland. By the first half of the seventeenth century, the copper coinage in both Britain and Ireland was in complete disarray. Neither James I nor his son, Charles I, took much interest in providing small denominations. By 1663 the tradesmens' tokens seemed to have been issued prolifically but were discontinued after 1673 when, on October 17, another proclamation from the king forbade anyone to issue them without license from his Majesty.

Another Trim token is now in the British Museum. Penny alloy token. A harp depicted. Minted by Patrick Clinton, Trim 1649-1672

## **Further Information:**

<https://oldcurrencyexchange.com/2015/05/11/the-proliferation-of-unofficial-irish-farthing-tokens-in-the-17th-century/>

<http://www.britishfarthings.com/Tokens/17th-Century/Ireland/Ireland.html>

<https://books.google.ie/books?id=INgHAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA26&lpg=PA26&dq=%22George+Harris%22+%22Trim%22&source=bl&ots=kKbbM1sBNv&sig=feH1Gr8PL2vuDEyLv-0hiyTbnd4&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj6pDEhf7QAhVMKMAKHfL0DGMQ6AEINzAF>



# Navan Maces and Seal



**Item:** Navan Town Maces and Seal

**Date:** 1680 and 1661

**Find Location:** Navan.

**Current Location:** National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks.

## **Description:**

Navan has a pair of silver Maces. The maces are 50 cm long, weigh 1130 grammes and were made by Andrew Gregory in 1680. The Sergeants at Mace were paid 1 pence for every barrel of corn, which they could discover being sold without payment of duty.

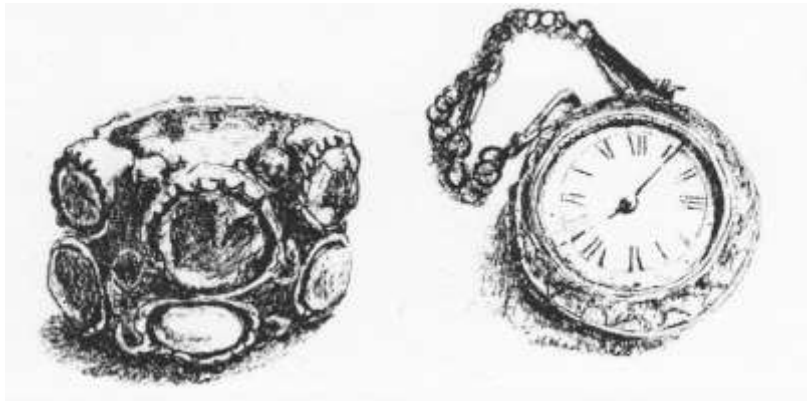
The Navan seal was granted to the town by King Charles II after the restoration of the monarchy in 1661. The design of the seal seems to be based on the crest of the Cowan family. It consists of an arm emerging from a bank of clouds holding a heart. It also contains three symbols of the restored royalty - a crown, a harp and a rose. The motto which is written all round these enclosed symbols says "Restaurato Carlo Secundo Respiramus" which means "We rejoice in the restoration of Charles II". This seal is dated by many writers at 1661 when Charles was restored to the throne but it may date from 1673 when Charles granted Navan a new charter with many additional rights.

## **Further Information:**

<http://www.navanhistory.ie/index.php?page=mace-and-seal>

*The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland Series VI Vol. L part II 1920.*

# St. Oliver Plunkett's Ring and Watch



**Item:** St. Oliver Plunkett's Ring and Watch

**Date:** 1681 AD

**Find Location:** Dunsany

**Current Location:** Held in secure location

## **Description:**

Saint Oliver Plunkett (1st November 1625 - 1st July 1681) was the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland. He was born at Loughcrew, Oldcastle and related to the other Plunkett families in Meath at Killeen and Dunsany. maintained his duties in Ireland in the face of English persecution and was eventually arrested and tried for treason in London. He was hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn on 1 July 1681, and became the last Roman Catholic martyr to die in England. Oliver Plunkett was beatified in 1920 and canonised in 1975, the first new Irish saint for almost seven hundred years. The Plunkett family of Dunsany kept the crook of St. Oliver Plunkett's travelling cross, his Episcopal ring and his watch. St. Peters, Drogheda, houses the national shire to Saint Oliver Plunkett.

## **Further Information:**

<http://www.saintoliverplunkett.com/>

"The Story of Dunsany Castle," by Malachy Lynch and Mary-Rose Carty



# Battle of the Boyne Musket



**Item:** Musket

**Date:** 1690

**Find Location:** Oldbridge, Drogheda

**Current Location:** Orange Order, Belfast.

## **Description:**

The musket is believed to have been used at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690 was purchased by the Orange Order in 2015. The privately-owned musket was on loan to the Irish state but returned in 2011 to its owner, a County Antrim businessman who wanted to remain anonymous. Made in the Tower of London in 1685 by George Fisher, gunmaker to English King James II, once carried by a Jacobite Dragoon, is also thought to have been active at the Siege of Derry in 1688/89. The musket made headlines in 2007 when the late Northern Ireland First Minister, Ian Paisley, presented it to the then Taoiseach Bertie Ahern in a symbolic moment for the peace process at the opening of the Battle of the Boyne Visitors' Centre in Co Meath.

## **Further Information:**

Padraig Lenihan, *1690 Battle of the Boyne*, Gloucestershire, 2003.

G. A. Hayes McCoy, *Irish Battles*, Belfast, 1990,

Richard Doherty, *The Williamite War in Ireland 1688–1691*, Dublin 1998.

<http://www.battleoftheboyne.ie/>

# King William's Gifts



**Item:** King William's Gifts

**Date:** 1690

**Find Location:** Lismullen, Navan.

**Current Location:** National Museum of Ireland.

## **Description:**

Sir John Dillon's close connection to Ormond, the Lord Lieutenant, may have resulted in William of Orange spending a night at Lismullen after the Battle of the Boyne. A number of personal items were said to have been given to the Dillons by William of Orange in 1690, two days after the Battle of the Boyne. The items included a glass decanter, a glass posset bowl, a bed-coverlet and two pairs of gauntlets. According to family tradition, King William slept at Lismullen on the 2 July 1690. In 1977 Millicent Dillon of Lismullen donated a number of items to the National Museum.

The posset bowl is a flint glass vessel used for posset, a mixture of milk with wine or ale. The decanter is made of flint glass of globe shape and gadrooned base, decorated with wheel carving of William III's coat of arms, a field gun, powder kegs, pistol and sword.

## **Further Information:**

Catriona MacLeod, 'Some hitherto unrecorded mementoes of William III (1650-1702), Prince of Orange and King of England from Lismullen, Navan, Co. Meath' in *Studies ; an Irish quarterly review*, 65 (1976), pp 128-143

<http://www.historyireland.com/early-modern-history-1500-1700/fit-for-a-king-mementoes-of-william-of-orange-1650-1702-in-ireland/>