Small brass ring, inscribed with Anglo-Saxon runes

From Cramond, Midlothian



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Small brass ring, inscribed with Anglo-Saxon runes

This small brass ring, inscribed with Anglo-Saxon runes, was found in Cramond churchyard in Midlothian. It was made sometime between 800 and 1000.

Only a part of the inscription is decipherable. It appears to record the runic maker's name. The surviving part of the inscription reads "... WORHTE ...", which means "made".

Runes are generally Scandinavian, but a related type, Anglian runes, were used to a limited degree in northern England. Some people carved their names on their property, but most people were illiterate. Writing was often seen as a kind of magic spell.

Record details

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Ref: National Museums Scotland H.NJ 19

Date: Between 800 and 1000

Material: Brass. Inscription: [Anglo-Saxon runes]

Dimensions: 0.75" D x 0.38" W

What: Ring

Subject: Jewellery : finger rings (NMAS Classification)

Who:

Where: Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh, Cramond Churchyard

Event:

Description: Broad brass ring inscribed with Anglo-Saxon runes, from Cramond Churchyard