SHIP FITTINGS

Unique ID: MAS-D100175

Object type certainty: Certain
Workflow status: Published

Two brass deck water filler plates and one ceramic door number (45).

The water filler plates are 150 mm in diameter and approximately 100 mm thick. They are both heavily degraded and concreted, distorting their 'mushroom-shaped' original form. It appears they have screws running through the wider top surface and hanging down below next to the tinner plug interior. The screws are approximately 50 mm long and 5 mm in diameter. This type of ships fiitting is used to provide an access point by which to fill water tanks on a vessel and are common on many vessels, from pleasure craft to commercial vessels, up until the present. A hole would be drilled through the deck to accomodate the tube and the outer face of the plate would be flush with the deck, the central cap could then be unscrewed to allow a water pipe to be inserted and the tank filled. The plates are manufactured in a material, such as brass or stainless steel, is resistant to corrosion from sea water thereby protecting the rest of the pipework which would connect the pipe to the tank itself fitted lowr in the vessel.

The ceramic door number is 50 mm in diameter, and in fair condition. The number '45' has faded, and the white ceramic has been stained yellow in places. Near the edges either side of the number there are two holes roughly 3.5 mm in diameter, used to secure the number plate in place. The exact use for this item is difficult to determine, as it could be cargo or more likely ship fittings. It may correspond to cabin door numbers, crew lockers or the like, its high quality finish suggests that it is unlikely to be part of the crew or operating areas of the vessel and therefore probably relates to the accomodation of the 100 or more passengers the vessel could carry.

Notes:

These items were recovered from the wreck of the SS *Pomerania*, a German ocean liner steamer built in 1873 by J. Caird & Co., in Greenock. This vessel was one of many owned by the Hamburg Amerikanische Packetfahrt Actien Gesellschaft (HAPAG); a transatlantic shipping enterprise established in Hamburg in 1847 that transported hundreds of thousands of emigrants from Germany, Scandinavia, and eastern Europe to the United States, Canada, Latin America, and other destinations around the world. The ship sank in 1878, 5 miles SE of Folkestone whilst carrying 109 passengers and 111 crew en route from New York to Cherbourg and Hamburg, last from Plymouth, following a collision with Welsh barque *Moel Eilian* and resulting in the loss of 55 lives. NRHE and Kent HER reference numbers cited in this record refer to the wreck of SS *Pomerania*.

Wreck details

Droit number: 073/18

Chronology

Broad period: NINETEENTH CENTURY

Period from: NINETEENTH CENTURY
Period to: NINETEENTH CENTURY
Date to: Exactly AD 1878

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1
Length: 150 mm
Thickness: 100 mm

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Sunday 6th May 2018

Personal details

Found by: This information is restricted for your login.
Recorded by: Mr Robbie Trevelyan

Other reference numbers

NRHE monument number: 883110
Other reference: Kent HER Number: TR 33 SW 26
Droit ID: 073/18

Materials and construction

Primary material: Steel
Secondary material: Ceramic
Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

County or Unitary authority: Kent (County)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: TR3232
Four figure Latitude: 51.04048916
Four figure longitude: 1.30806705
1:25K map: TR3232
1:10K map: TR33SW
Display four figure position on What3Words
Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1 metre square.

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