BOTTLE

Unique ID: MAS-D100072

Object type certainty: Certain
Workflow status: Published

One Hamilton bottle also known as a torpedo or egg bottle. These bottles are named after their English inventor, William Francis Hamilton who took out a patent in 1809 for a method of bottling soda and other mineral waters, involving ovate bottles (although use of ovate bottle probably pre-dated his patent by at least 20 years). These bottles became common in the 1840s when the manufacturing of mineral water became very popular. Before this date, carbonated water was only sold on a small scale. The bottle was invented as a way of keeping the gas in fizzy drinks. The pointed base meant that the cork or stopper was always airtight as it was always wet and swollen due to being laid on its side (Dale 2012). A Swiss chemist, Jacob Schwepper, set up a chemist's shop in London and was selling the newly invited artificial fizzy spring water known as aerated water in the early years of the 19th century, and was an early user of the Hamilton bottles to keep in schweppervescence. However, bottles with a pointed base were difficult to transport and could not be stood upright (Dale 2012). Common use of ovate bottles runs from the 1830s through to the end of the century.

Notes:

This item was found with six stoneware seltzer bottles (MAS-D100065), four stoneware beverage bottles (MAS-D100066), two green glass wine bottles (MAS-D100068), 3 aqua glass bottles (MAS-D100071), four small stoneware ink bottles (MAS-D100074), six small bowls (MAS-D100076) and one egg cup (MAS-D100078).

All of these items were recovered from the wreck of SS *Strathclyde*, a British trading steamship built in 1871 in Blackwood, Port Glasgow. The ship sank in 1876 off Dover whilst carrying 23 passengers and 47 crew for Bombay, following a collision with *Franconia* and resulting in the loss of 38 lives.

NRHE and Kent HER reference numbers cited in this record refer to the wreck of SS *Strathclyde*.

The location of SS *Strathclyde* was taken from the British National Grid co-ordinate from the National Record of the Historic Environment.

Class: Container **Sub class:** Food and liquid storage container

Subsequent actions

Current location of find: With finder
Subsequent action after recording: Submitted as wreck to the Receiver of Wreck

Wreck details

Droit number: 173/17

marinelands.org.uk

Chronology

Broad period: NINETEENTH CENTURY
Period from: NINETEENTH CENTURY
Period to: NINETEENTH CENTURY

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Monday 24th July 2017

Personal details

Found by: This information is restricted for your login.
Recorded by: L R
Identified by: L M
Secondary identifier: V L

Other reference numbers

NRHE monument number: 813607
Other reference: Kent HER Number: TR 33 NW 23
Droit ID: 173/17

Materials and construction

Primary material: Glass
Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

County or Unitary authority: Kent (County)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: TR3438
Four figure Latitude: 51.09353995
Four figure longitude: 1.34042371
1:25K map: TR3438
1:10K map: TR33NW
Display four figure position on What3Words
Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Diving
Discovery circumstances: Diving
Current location: With finder

finds.org.uk

Dale, R, 2012 *DIGGING FOR TREASURE: A Guide to Finding Valuable Victorian Rubbish Dumps* Indiana : Xlibris Book Publishing, ,

marinefinds.org.uk