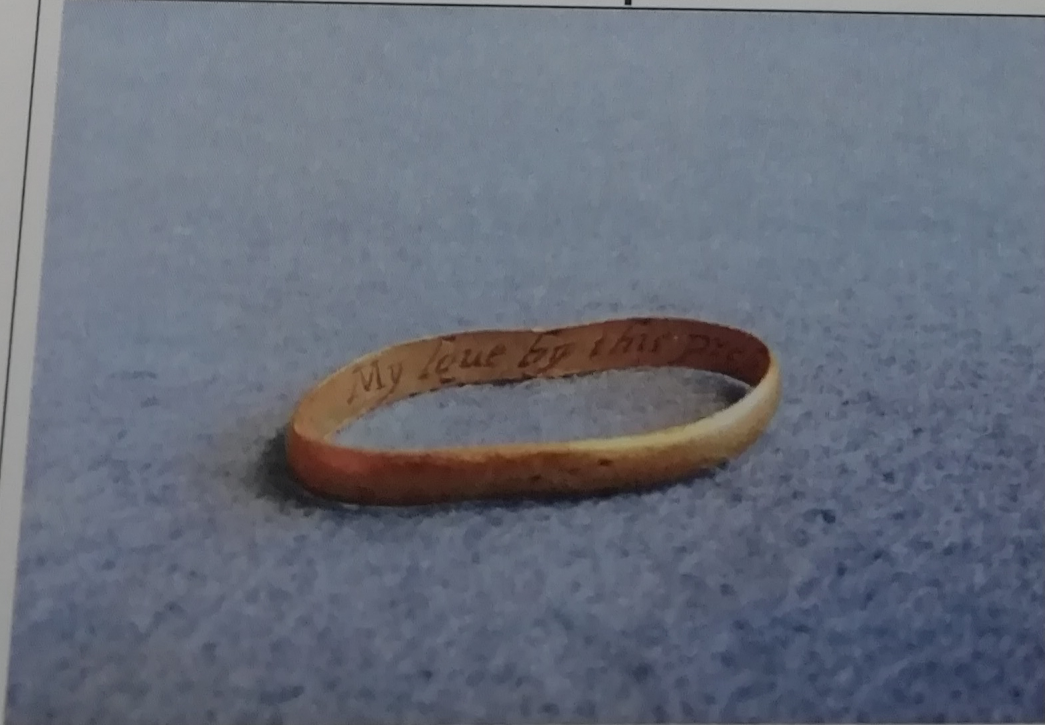


		<b>CO.TT.72/08</b>		
TTDB.2009/26		<b>TREASURE TROVE</b>		No finds:
Artefact type: Finger ring		Period/Culture: Post-medieval	Date: Late 17 <sup>th</sup> century	
Findspot: [REDACTED]		NGR: NB		
Place: Inverness		Local Authority: Highland		
Method of discovery: archaeological intervention/chance/ <b>metal-detecting</b> (Highlight as bold)				

**Artefact(s) description:**

A plain gold posy ring, engraved with the inscription '*my love by this presented is*'. Although amatory inscriptions are common in rings from a much earlier period these were mainly ordinary decorative rings pressed into service. The use of a plain gold band is a wholly new type which appears in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and is a significant departure from the norm. While earlier rings could be mistaken as decorative a posy ring was an unambiguous statement that the wearer was married, or at least betrothed. As might be expected the inscriptions on earlier examples favour a certain Puritan austerity but by the later 17<sup>th</sup> century the inscriptions demonstrate a playfulness of spirit which reflects the social values of the time; this particular inscription is taken from '*The Academy of Complements, or, A new way of Wooing*', published in 1685. Intriguingly although these rings are common finds in Scotland the inscriptions are invariably in English, never in Scots.

**Report by: Stuart Campbell**



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Panel date: April 30<sup>th</sup> 2009

Museum allocation:

Estimate reward:

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