



POSY RING "GOD ABOVE INCREASE OUR LOVE"

England, 17th century

Gold

Weight 4.3 gr.; circumference 56.45 mm.; US size 7 3/4; UK size P1/2

"Posy rings" take their name from the French *poésie* or poem. Seventeenth-century rings of this type bear short, often rhyming inscriptions, usually on the interior of the hoop. These affectionate commonplace phrases draw their subject matter and style from short poetic forms that served as literary exercises during the reign of Elizabeth I.

Description

A convex band of gold bears an inscription in capital letters, "God a bove increase our love." The ring and its inscription are in excellent condition.

Literature

The inscription on this ring saw great popularity in seventeenth-century England. Joan Evans records eight variations of this posy with different spellings. For comparison to these examples, see the collection of the British Museum (two rings with the same motto, published by Evans, 1931, p. 38, and Dalton, 1912, BM 1152 and BM 1153); the Ashmolean Museum (published in Taylor and Scarisbrick 1978, no. 542);

Reference Number: 377-3

Price : \$6,500