THE GOLD NOSE OF GREEN GINGER

gold, 40 x 35 x 80 mm

Unearthed in Bransholme, 1967. Rediscovered in Hull, 2017.

Origins unknown. Possibly worn ceremonially. Considered by some as lucky.

In 1967, excavations made to lay the foundations to build the first houses on Bransholme unearthed a small casket. Prizing open the lid, a strange gold object was nestled within; and so The Gold Nose of Green Ginger, as it has now come to be known, was discovered.

The Nose disappeared again – presumed lost or stolen – before The Green Ginger Fellowship rediscovered the lost treasure during their ongoing crate investigations. Drawn to a crate that smelled strongly of ginger, they opened it to reveal The Gold Nose lying within.

There are societies throughout history where a focus on the human head and the senses have been particularly important. In some respects, The Gold Nose of Green Ginger is similar to the pair of eyes beaten from a sheet of gold that were excavated in 1970 from the Roman city of Wroxeter, Shropshire. The gold eyes are thought to have been a votive offering to the gods from someone seeking a cure for an eye disease; perhaps somewhere in the world there was a similar culture devoted to the nose.

Archaeologists do not know definitively what the object was originally used for, its source, or how it ended up in Bransholme, but laboratory analysis confirms that it is made of real gold. Some believe it was transported to Hull on cargo ships bringing spices from the East. Others tell a story about the wild boar that used to roam around the marshes and forests that now form Bransholme (the name Bransholme comes from the old Scandinavian phrase meaning ‘*wild boar water meadow’*). Wild boar forage for food, and it is said that a one such animal unearthed the gold root; other variations on this story says that the boar had special powers and turned the root gold itself.

Wherever it came from or how it came to be, many believe that The Gold Nose of Green Ginger brings unfathomable and unexplainable good luck. Many have visited to wish upon it, hoping their desires and dreams may just come true…

After enjoying two months in residence at North Point Shopping Centre, The Gold Nose of Green Ginger has now been handed back to the City of Hull for safekeeping at Hull History Centre for the foreseeable future.

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