

1

**c. 1000BC: Trio of Bronze Age Irish gold 'Ring Money'**

Gold 'ring money' in the form of three plain rings, originating from Northern Ireland. Extremely scarce as a trio. Pre Christian Ireland had a very precise set of laws which usually involved a payment by the perpetrator of a crime to the victim or the victim's family. The punishment for default was death. The records of these laws (mostly dating from Christian era documents) state that slaves and cattle were an accepted medium of large exchange. Presumably smaller exchanges were made on a similar basis with tools and ornaments. There are a number of gold and gold plated rings found in Irish and other Celtic contexts referred to as 'ring money'. The variation in the quality and standard of these pieces does not suggest a fixed denomination but rather that these items were used like hack silver and assayed at every exchange. The gold plated pieces are a problem in this context as they do not seem to be likely to have been made in imitation of solid pieces nor would they have been easy to assay. Hoards of Irish Celtic gold ornaments often consist of quantities of cloak fasteners suggesting that these items were used as a medium of exchange rather than just for fastening cloaks. But as with the ring money there is no evidence for a fixed series of weights and measures being used in their manufacture. We are grateful to John Stafford Langan, [www.irishcoinage.com](http://www.irishcoinage.com), for this note.  
€3,000-€4,000 (£2,500-£3,333 approx)

2

**c. 1000BC: Bronze Age Irish Gold Ring Money from Co. Armagh**

Gold sheet over copper. Originating from County Armagh. With folded-over ends.  
€800-€1,000 (£667-£833 approx)

3

**c. 1000BC: Bronze Age Irish Gold Ring Money**

Gold sheet over copper. A good example from Northern Ireland  
€800-€1,000 (£667-£833 approx)

4

**c. 750-600BC: Late Bronze Age socketed bronze axe head**

Extremely fine and rare Ewart Park Phase bronze axe head with three diverging ribs on each face and prominent mouth moulding. Found during Limestone quarrying in Cardiganshire, Wales in 1890. 5 x 2in. (12.70 x 5.08cm)

*Provenance:*

R. G. Widdowson Antiquities, North Yorkshire; Whence purchased by the present owner  
€400-€500 (£333-£417 approx)

5

**1950-1: Codex Cenannensis: The Book of Kells**

Bern: Urs Graf, vellum stamped in gilt; boxes. Facsimile edition of the Book of Kells in two volumes, comprising of hundreds of plates with many in colour, including all the openings to Gospels. Also with a printed reproduction of the first introductory text volume. (3 items) 16 x 12in. (40.64 x 30.48cm)  
€150-€250 (£125-£208 approx)

6

**1868: Facsimiles of the Miniatures and Ornaments of Anglo-Saxon and Irish Manuscripts**

by J.O. Westwood Quaritch London, 1868, folio, 156pp. One of an edition of 200, illustrated with 54 excellent chromolithographic plates. Presented in a cloth folding box. 22 x 14in. (55.88 x 35.56cm)  
€600-€800 (£500-£667 approx)

7

**1791: Francis Grose The Antiquities of Ireland**

limited edition with colour plates  
London. Hooper. 1791. Comprising of two volumes with a total of 266 very fine contemporarily hand coloured plates. Only a total of 25 copies of this work were coloured hence the absolute rarity of this set. Attractively bound in

three quarter green morocco with marbled boards and ornate gilt spine. The last copy of this limited edition with handcoloured prints to be offered for sale was listed in Hodges Figgis' *A Catalogue of Books Relating to Ireland*, August 1953. 14 x 10in. (35.56 x 25.40cm)  
€8,000-€10,000 (£6,667-£8,333 approx)

8

**1791: Francis Grose The Antiquities of Ireland**

Quarter leather, marbled boards, gilt titles. Hooper, London, 1791. First Edition. Two volumes. A sought after publication. Illustrated throughout and with information regarding all parts of the country. (2 items) 11 x 7.50in. (27.94 x 19.05cm)  
€300-€500 (£250-£417 approx)

9

**1766: The History and Antiquities of the City of Dublin by Walter Harris**

Original calf, 509pp. *The History and Antiquities of the City of Dublin. From the earliest accounts, Compiled from Authentick Memoirs, Offices of Record, Manuscript Collections, and other unexceptionable Vouchers.* Published by Laurence Flinn, Castle Street and James Williams, Skinner Row, Dublin. 8 x 5.50in. (20.32 x 13.97cm)  
€100-€150 (£83-£125 approx)

10

**1566 (20 March) Important State letter issued by King Philip II of Spain to Cardinal Innocenzo del Monte.**

Single page manuscript. Important letter sent from Madrid signed "Yo El Rey" by the King. Also signed by Gonzalo Peres the King's personal secretary. Also bearing the State Seal. In this letter which is full of diplomatic grandeur, King Philip refers to his cousin the Marquis de Aquilar, the fact that he has been chosen as the King's agent "in this great matter.", which could refer to several things including his attempted settlement of a Catholic suitor for Queen Elizabeth I 11.50 x 11.50in. (29.21 x 29.21cm)  
€500-€700 (£417-£583 approx)

11

**1950: Siege of Clonmel Commemoration Tercentenary Souvenir Record**

*Siege of Clonmel Commemoration Tercentenary Souvenir Record 1650-1950* edited by P. O'Connell and W. C. Darmody. 100pp with folding map of Clonmel and signed by O'Connell. 9.50 x 7.50in. (24.13 x 19.05cm)  
€100-€120 (£83-£100 approx)

12

**1657: Composite Atlas Orbis Novi et Antiqui Delineatio**

Folio, contemporary pigskin over boards, marked G.M.F. to spine. Collection of bound 16th Century maps. Manuscript title *Orbis Novi et Antiqui Delineatio, 1657*, G.M.F. within an engraved title page. A total of 90 engraved maps (72 double page) by or after Mercator, Ortelius, Hondius, Janssonius and Quad, with fine examples of Ireland. Some maps cut to neatline or backed on paper. Volume with ex-libris label of Philipp Ferdinand von Gudenu (1710-1783), a draughtsman who worked in Mainz and Constantinople. A unique and fascinating item. 16 x 12in. (40.64 x 30.48cm)  
€10,000-€12,000 (£8,333-£10,000 approx)

13

**1610: John Speed map of the province of Connaught**

Intaglio, handcoloured, framed. Attractive map of Connaught with inset town plan of Galway. "Performed by John Speede and are to be sold in Popes Head Alley against The Exchang by John Sudbury and George Humble, Anno Dominis 1610" 15 x 20in. (38.10 x 50.80cm)  
€400-€600 (£333-£500 approx)

SEE LOTS 549-559 FOR EARLY IRISH COINAGE FROM EDWARD I TO KING WILLIAM.