

Late Medieval Leather Flasks from the Museum of London
and Limerick City Museum Limerick City Ireland



"Flask, leather, the body and base formed of two pieces of leather. D-shaped long- and cross-section, oval in outline. The base, slightly concave, is a continuation of the flattened half. The halves are stitched with waxed cord forming an outward facing seam down each side and around the edge of half the base. The seams are externally lined with pitch. Two leather loops, 3-4cm long, are set into slots in the seam on each side, one on the shoulder and one 3.5cm above the base. The body tapers in a short neck to the mouth, which is near- rectangular with rounded corners, and slightly puckered 2-2.5cm below the rim, showing the marks of the now missing lid. There are small incomplete perforations on three corners immediately above the pucker, and a small dent below the rim on one side with wear above it to the rim, possibly indicating a hinged lid. Late medieval C15th C16th FRNO 547 548 549 H. 35.3; W. max 21.2; D. base 14.4 x 12.0; D. rim ext 4.6 x 3.6, T wall 0.4; Wt. 686.2g

Inches:

H. 13.9; W. max 8.3; D. base 5.7 x 4.7; D. rim ext 1.8 x 1.4, T wall 0.2

Date

Period: Medieval

Early: 1400

Late: 1600

Century: 15th or 16th

Other info

Inv.No.: 0000.0215

Dynasty:

Maker:

"



" Bottle, leather. Keg-shaped, with a flat base and straight, flanged sides. Late medieval

Bottle, leather. Keg-shaped, with a flat base and straight, flanged sides. Made from three pieces of leather, the body of the vessel and the two sides. The sides are truncated oval in outline, the flanges everted, thickened and strengthened by one thickness of scrap leather, sewn with waxed cord on the inner and outer edges of the flange. Bottle-like neck and rim, formed by stitching, concave in outline, from the rim to the sides. The surplus leather forms spines, convex in outline, from the rim to the sides, strengthened by a double thickness of scrap leather. Each spine has a central perforation 1.1cm in diameter. The neck is strengthened by an internal collar with overlapping ends. The vessel was sealed by a bung. The internal and external surfaces are lined with pitch or resin. Late medieval C15th FRNO 547 548 549 H. 26.0; D. base 21.8 x 16.0; D. sides ext 19.1 x 17.1; T. flanges 1.1-1.5; Depth flanges 1.1-1.5; W. max 23.5; Wt. 1351.5

Inches

H. 10.2; D. base 8.6 x 6.3; D. sides ext 7.5 x 6.7; T. flanges .4-.6; Depth flanges .4-.6; W. max 9.3;

Date

Period: Medieval

Early: 1400

Late: 1500

Century: 15th

Other info

Inv.No.: 0000.0216

Dynasty:

Maker:

<http://www.limerickcity.ie/Museum/>



Leather costrel - a barrel-shaped bottle with lug-handles on either side of a short neck. It is decorated with 2 shields and a zigzag pattern up the sides.

Costrel

Date: Late 1300s

Leather was used for making light, unbreakable bottles for carrying drink on a journey. Soaked in water, the leather could be shaped around a pattern or 'former' and would retain its shape when dry. Costrels were barrel-shaped, and had lugs with holes on either side of the mouth so that they could be carried on a cord worn on the belt or round the neck. This one is decorated with shields.

Accession number: BC72[83]<1996>

Place of collection: Baynard's Castle, Baynard House, Queen Victoria Street EC4 [City of London]

Material: leather

Measurements: H 180 mm; L 195 mm; W 80 mm (H 7.1 in ; L 7.6 in : W 3.1 in)

Gallery location: Case 14.3