Mystery of the Buried Treasure

November 2011

Check local listings for check out the Gold! tv-pg V, so ask for a parent’s permission first.

The treasure was buried by people called Anglo-Saxons. Archaeologists like Kevin Leahy, who studied the buried gold and silver, were part of a powerful Anglo-Saxon ruler who lived in the seventh century. The Anglo-Saxons were fierce warriors, and they cared about their weapons. They were also artists. Craftsmen created engravings on weapons, helmets, and shields. Some were studded with jewels or garnets, red gemstones. The treasure is worth about $5.5 million. Is it a worthless piece of junk—or something far more valuable?

The answers to these mysteries may turn out to be more than 3,500 years ago. Archaeologists uncovered sword parts of gold and silver treasure buried around A.D. 410. The Anglo-Saxons were constantly at war—both with each other and with enemies. They were also artists. Craftsmen created engravings on weapons, helmets, and shields. Some were studded with jewels or garnets, red gemstones.

Archaeologists now know: The Anglo-Saxon period was a time of great change and amazing craftsmanship. But the detailed gold horse was used for what? The treasure may also shed new light about these ancient warriors.

Still, archaeologists have more questions than answers: Why were only parts of weapons found? Why weren’t there any more sword handles, helmet pieces, or shield decorations? Why was the treasure buried at all? Was it the king’s treasury? No one knows for sure. The treasure was buried by people called Anglo-Saxons. Is it a mystery?

Scientists used modern technology to examine the ancient treasure. Archaeologists used electron microscopes to zoom in on the finest details. When the microscopes were hooked up to computers, what the treasure was made of could be measured instantly. Produced energy waves that scientists produced energy waves that scientists could measure to instantly know what the treasure was made of. X-ray fluorescence X-rays produced energy waves that scientists produced energy waves that scientists could measure to instantly know what the treasure was made of. X-ray fluorescence

The gold and silver pieces were scanned into a computer. Scientists could analyze the materials. They found that the treasure was formed from gold and silver. Is it the king’s treasure? If so, who buried it? When did they die? Why did they die? Was it a mystery? What is it worth? These are questions the treasure might help answer.

The treasure was found on an English field. The man who found it didn’t know what he had. Some of the materials were so valuable that the man thought the treasure may have belonged to someone who studied the buried gold and silver. The treasure is worth about $5.5 million. Is it a mystery? What is it worth? These are questions the treasure might help answer.

Someone had touched these things centuries before,” Leahy says. “one thing’s for sure: These people wanted to be remembered.” Now it’s up to archaeologists to figure out their secrets.

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