

18th Century Material Culture

Posy Rings



Posy Rings

“Posy” (“Posie” / “Posey” / or “Poesy”) Rings were gold or silver finger rings that were inscribed with an romantic verse or quotation. Their namesake was derived from the French “Poésy” for poem or body of poems. Given as a token of affection to a lover or spouse as early as the 15th century, these rings were very popular in England and France during the 17th and 18th centuries. Examples fabricated in America can also be found.



English Posy Rings



English Gold Posy Ring

“BY TREVTH YE SHALL TRYE ME BY TYME YE SHALL SPYE ME SO FYND SO SET BY ME”

16th - 17th Century

(The British Museum)



English Gold & Enamel Posy Ring
"NEVER TO CHANG"
16th - 17th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold & Enamel Posy Ring
“x YOVRS x ONLI x”
16th - 17th Century
(The British Museum)



English Silver Gilt Posy Ring
“+ THINKE x ON x ME”
16th - 17th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold & Enamel Posy Ring
"maides must say no"
17th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold & Enamel Posy Ring
"PITYE + THE + POOWR."
17th Century
(The London Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
"Many are thee starrs I see yet in my eye no starr like thee"
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold & Enamel Posy Ring
"No recompenc but remembrance"
17th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold & Enamel Posy Ring
"Let noe calamity Seperate amity"
17th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold & Enamel Posy Ring
“Wee Joyne our harts in god. P over R L”
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
"Thine most sure till death"
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
"loue loues, no change"
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
“That God will haue shall be”
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
"Thee and i will louers die"
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
"Enjoyned one in God alon"
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
"The gift of a friend"
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
“NOT THE GIFT BVT THE GIVER”
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
"In thy breast my hart doth rest"
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Silver Posy Ring with Tortoiseshell Hoop
"Love me"
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
“IN . GOD . IS . ALL . MY . TRVST >”
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold & Enamel Posy Ring
"Our Hearts and Hands Are One till Death"
17th - 18th Century
(Wartski.com)



English Gold & Traces of Enamel Posy Ring
“Lets fix our loue in god abo”
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
"A frends gift"
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
"The absent yet constant"
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
"The gifte of H. Pyne gent"
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
“* 8 As . god hath apoynted, so am I Contented .”
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold & Enamel Posy Ring
“*Aduised choyse Admits no chang”
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
“IN x ABSENCE x BE x TREV x”
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring with Heart Relief
"we shal bee one with Gods blessin on"
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
"My loue to thee shall endles be"
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring

“Tho the world hath striued to part Yet God hath Joyned us hand and heart”

17th - 18th Century

(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
"True louers harts death only partes"
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
"MY FAITH IS FIRME"
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
"PRAYES VERTU +"
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
“Loue and goodwill twixt us bide Still”
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
"Be kind and constant"
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
"I + LIVE + IN * HOPE * *"
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
“I + LIVE + IN * HOPE * *”
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring from London

"God alone made us one"

by Anthony Panton, or Agmondisham Pickhayes, or Alexander Pillis c. 1613 - 1697

(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring from London
"Fear God loue me"

by Anthony Panton, or Agmondisham Pickhayes, or Alexander Pillis c. 1613 - 1697
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring from Salisbury
"Noe riches to content"
by John Ivie c. 1626 - 1652
(The British Museum)



English Gold & Turquoise Posy Ring from London
"Hope is the life of love"
by George Waple or George Webster c. 1660 - 1678
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring from London
"Gods blessing be on thee and me"
by Daniel Antrobu or Ainsley Dalston c. 1671 - 1697
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring from London
“Fear God loue me”
by Edward Blagrove c. 1668 - 1709
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring from London
“Since god hath joynd us two together Let us liue in loue and serve him”
by Edward Blagrove c. 1668 - 1709
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring from London
"A token of loue"
by Edward Blagrove c. 1668 - 1709
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring from London
"I am his that gave me this"
by Edward Blagrove c. 1668 - 1709
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring from London
"For vertue not for vallue"
by Charles Yeoman c. 1682 - 1697
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring from London
"Let reason rule affection"
by Joseph Smith c. 1707 - 1733
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
“LET LOVE INCREASES”
by John or Joseph Collier c. 1711 - 1750
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring from Plymouth
“I loue and like my choice”
by Joseph Collier c. 1713 - 1755
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
"My promise past shall ever Last"
by John or Joseph Collier c. 1711 - 1750
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring from London
"Gods deuine hath made thee mn"
by John Montgomery or Joseph Mumford c. 1711 - 1736
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
"J'aime Mon Choix" (I Love My Choice)
by Guillaume Henry or George Houston c. 1720 - 1773
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring from London
“MK A token of love 1730”
by Samuel Johnson c. 1730
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring from London
“Fear the Lord & rest content So shall we live & not repent B W 1730”
by Charles Pickering c. 1730
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring from Plymouth
“Happy pair that faithfull are”
by Joseph Collier c. 1750
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring
"My (heart) is free for God & thee"
by Joseph Collier c. 1750
(The British Museum)



English Gold Posy Ring from London
"To loue and peace god gives increase"
by William Smith or William Smith II c. 1758 - 1777
(The British Museum)

American Posy Rings



Gold Wedding Ring
“(L)IVE Co(n)tentEd”
by Paul Revere 1773
(Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)



Gold Wedding Band of Susannah Barlett Emery Who Married John Emery in Newbury, Massachusetts in 1781
"Love and Live Happy"
(New Hampshire Historical Society)

Fede Posy Rings

Fede Rings

“Fede” Rings have a motif of two clasped hands, one male, one female, holding a heart. “Fede” is derived from the Italian “Mani in Fede” which means “Hands in Faith”. These rings date back to the time of the Renaissance and were popular as a symbol of betrothal in both Europe and England during the 17th and 18th centuries.





English Gold Fede Posy Ring
“* I + LYVE + I[N] + HOPE”
16th - 17th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold Fede Posy Ring
"Loves delight is to unite"
by "TS" 16th - 17th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold & Enamel Posy Ring
"AS HANDES DOE SHUT SO HART BE KNIT"
16th - 17th Century
(The London Museum)



Irish Silver Posy Ring with a Bezel in the Form of a Paired Hands Holding a Crowned Heart
“Loue and feare god”
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)

English
Jeweled Posy Rings



English Gold with Bezel & Faceted Glass Posy Ring
"Love is bond of peace"
17th - 18th Century
(The British Museum)



English Gold with Bezel & Faceted Glass Posy Ring
“Let reason rule affection”
c. 1682 - 1697
(The British Museum)



English Gold & Opal Posy Ring
"In God & thee my joy shall be R.H."
17th Century
(The London Museum)

Hebrew Betrothal Rings



English Gold Jewish Wedding or Betrothal Ring

Hebrew Translation: "Good luck. Joshua and Judith Tsarfathi. May their Rock and Redeemer guard them. 1699"

1699

(The British Museum)

Acknowledgements

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