



Posy Rings



Posy rings acquired their name from the word “posy” or “poesy” based on the French word ‘poésy’, to describe a motto or poem inscribed inside a ring. These rings were popular from the late medieval period onwards. The rings portrayed secret messages of love between the giver and the recipient. The wearing of words against the skin was believed to increase their poignancy.

wartski.com



Gold posy ring, 'A true Friends gift', 18th century.

Post Medieval engraved posy ring 'Let this present my good intent', circa 17th century.

Georgian gold posy ring 'I love in earnest', circa 18th century.

POSIE RINGS (SOMETIMES SPELLED POSY, POSEY OR POESY RINGS)

- Gold finger rings with a short inscription on their surface.
- The language used in many early posy rings was Norman French, with Old French, Latin and Old English.
- Until about 1350, the lettering was done in a script with rounded capital letters known as Lombardic, while later examples use Gothic script.
- The ring could act as a religious talisman or a token of love or friendship.
- In medieval times, when religion was very much a part of everyday life, it was common for saints' figures or religious text to appear on the rings alongside romantic expressions or even expressions of friendship.
- Like much personalised jewellery today, the posy ring gave the wearer a chance to have something completely unique.
- Rare examples had pictures instead of words. They would put a heart or an eye symbol instead of the written word.
- They were popular during the 15th through the 17th centuries in both England and France as lovers' gifts.
- The Victoria and Albert Museum has one of the largest collections of posy rings, as does the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology in Oxford

TRADITIONAL INSCRIPTIONS

'The Love of thee is life to me'

'The god of peace our love increase'

'Love entire is my desire'

'Love is like a hidden flame,
Which will at last blaze forth again'

'Love ever till death sever'

'UBI AMOR UBI FIDES'

'Love is trouble'

'Where there is Love there is Faith'

'My Heart I Bind Where Love I Find'

'Live and Love Happy'

'Let love continue'

'love for love'

'True love is endless'

'Love is here, Both plain and clear'

'Meet me at midnight'

'You never knew a heart more true'

'The ring is round & hath no end so is my love for thy'

'Love is the bond of peace'

'Love itself discloses, by gifts with Posies'

'Love me'

FURTHER INFORMATION:

www.creativetherapy.space/resources

<https://www.auronia.co.uk/guide/posy-ring>

<https://wartski.com/posy-ring-messages/>

English Posies and Posy Rings by Dame Joan Evans



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