

# Basic Detail Report

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**1984.01693.03**

**Title**  
Claddagh Ring

**Date**  
1984

**Medium**  
Metal (18kt gold)

**Description**  
An 18 kt gold claddagh ring. The ring features two hands holding a heart with the crown on the top of it. The inside of the is inscribed "President Reagan Galway 1984."

**Dimensions**  
15/16 × 15/16 × 1/16 in. (24.6 × 24.4 × 1.6 mm)

**Historical Note**  
The design of the claddagh, two hands clasping a heart surmounted by a crown, came from the fishing village of Claddagh near Galway, Ireland. It symbolizes love, friendship and loyalty. Couples exchanged a claddagh ring at weddings beginning in the 17th century: "With this crown, I give my loyalty. With these hands, I offer my service. With this heart, I give you mine". Wikipedia tells us that a person wearing the ring on the right hand with the heart facing outward is not romantically linked but is looking for love. If the ring is turned inwards, the wearer is in a relationship, or their heart has been "captured": the heart points down the hand and into the veins which lead to the wearer's heart. The ring worn on the left hand with the heart facing outward shows the wearer is engaged; turned inward indicates the wearer is married.

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