

What Else?

This reliquary is a replica of the shrine for the Bell of St. Patrick. The original is in the National Museum of Ireland.

The Bell of St Patrick - Ireland's patron saint - was very special to the people of Ireland. In the 1100s, a cover was made to protect it. The cover can be called a reliquary as it was decorated so that the bell could be an object for worship.

The intricate carving and bright stones on the front of the reliquary were meant to reflect its special contents.

The craftsmanship of the original cover would have been a challenge to copy.

Mystery Object



Containers

What?

Reliquary

This is a reliquary. Reliquaries are also known as shrines. They normally contain relics - items associated with a saint such as possessions or bones.



Who?

We don't know precisely who made this reliquary but it must have been a very skilled metalworker.

This reliquary is a replica of a much older one. In the 1800s it became fashionable to make replicas of older objects using new materials to show them off and demonstrate new skills.

When?

1800 - 1850

Material?

It is made of electroplated metal with glass beads.