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## Medieval Poison Ring Used for Political Murders

Bulgarian archaeologists have unearthed a 14<sup>th</sup>-century medieval bronze ring that might have been used for political murders some 700 years ago. Found at the site of a former medieval fortress in Cape Kaliakra, not far from the Black Sea coastal town of Kavarna in northeast Bulgaria, this finely crafted ring was probably worn by a male on the little finger of the right hand. Intriguingly, it features a round, hollow cartridge decorated with granulation and an artificial hole. “The cartridge was adapted into the ring for the poison to be poured into a glass quite seamlessly,” the Kavarna municipality said in a statement.

It would have been worn at a time in which Kaliakra was the capital of a principality in the Dobruja region, the poison ring most likely had a key role in the fight between Dobrotitsa, ruler of the independent Despotate of Dobrudja in the second half of the 14th century, and his son Ivanko Terter. Petrunova said. “It would solve many of the unexplained deaths among nobles and aristocrats close to Dobrotitsa,” Petrunova said.

Re-written from <http://news.discovery.com/history/archaeology/medieval-poison-ring-used-for-political-murders-found-bulgaria-130821.htm>

