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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 9, 2022

## Mackinac State Historic Parks Archaeology Uncovers Two Amazing Artifacts

MACKINAW CITY, MICH. – The 64<sup>th</sup> archaeological field season is barely two weeks old, and already two amazing finds have been made.

The first was uncovered back on May 26.

“Every year sections of the walls of the excavation collapse over the winter. We had a very nice artifact come out of the east wall of the southeast cellar,” said Dr. Lynn Evans, Mackinac State Historic Parks Curator of Archaeology. “It is part of a red earthenware bowl. It appears to have been glazed, but we won’t know for certain until we can clean it in the lab. The base is 2.5” in diameter. It was probably discarded during the move to Mackinac Island in 1781.”

Then, on June 9, another find was made.

“We had a great find come out of the Southeast Cellar,” Evans said. “It is a one ounce brass weight marked with a crown over GR, for the king. It was used with a balance-type scale.”

The base diameter is 1.125”, the top diameter is 1.25”, and it is 3/16” thick.

The current excavation site is House E of the Southeast Rowhouse at Colonial Michilimackinac. Numerous exciting finds have been made at the site in recent years, including a Compagnie des Indes lead seal dating between 1717 and 1769, a brass sleeve button with an intaglio bust on it, a potential structural post dating to the original 1715 fort, and engraved “Jesuit” trade ring, a brass serpentine sideplate for a British trade gun; complete remnants from a creamware plate; and many other items. The archaeological dig at Michilimackinac began in 1959, making it one of the longest-running **archaeology** programs in North America. House E was first occupied by Charles Henri Desjardins de Rupallay de Gonneville, and later by an as-yet-unidentified English trader.

Archaeologists are on site every day at Colonial Michilimackinac, weather permitting, through the summer. Visit [mackinacparks.com](http://mackinacparks.com) for more information.

*Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan's Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, the Biddle House, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Historic Downtown Mackinac, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park and Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks' rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or online at [www.mackinacparks.com](http://www.mackinacparks.com).*

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