Primary Maker: Field Exploration Committee

Title: Framed set of bale seals (18)

Date: 1775-1783

Medium: Lead, wool

Dimensions: Largest: 1 3/8 in. (3.5 cm)

Object Number: INV.6090.1-18

Object Name: Framed set of bale seals (18)

Classification: ARCHAEOLOGY

Curatorial Remarks:
These seals were excavated by the Field Exploration Committee at Revolutionary War and Colonial sites in New York, including Fort Washington, Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain, the Nagel house, Fort George on the Niagara River, and the British camp on the Dyckman farm. Bale seals were used to label goods, and the embossed inscriptions on front identified the merchants who shipped them. The engraved numbers on back of the seals were probably used to identify packages and shipping invoices.

Physical Description:
Lead bale seals; two disks connected by band; one disk is pierced with a hole and snaps on to the tab on back of the other disk; inscriptions and symbols on front of seals: two seals have acorns; two have floral designs; one has a crown; one has a sheep; and another has a fleurs de lis; many seals have engraved fractions on back; a piece of brown wool is attached to one seal.