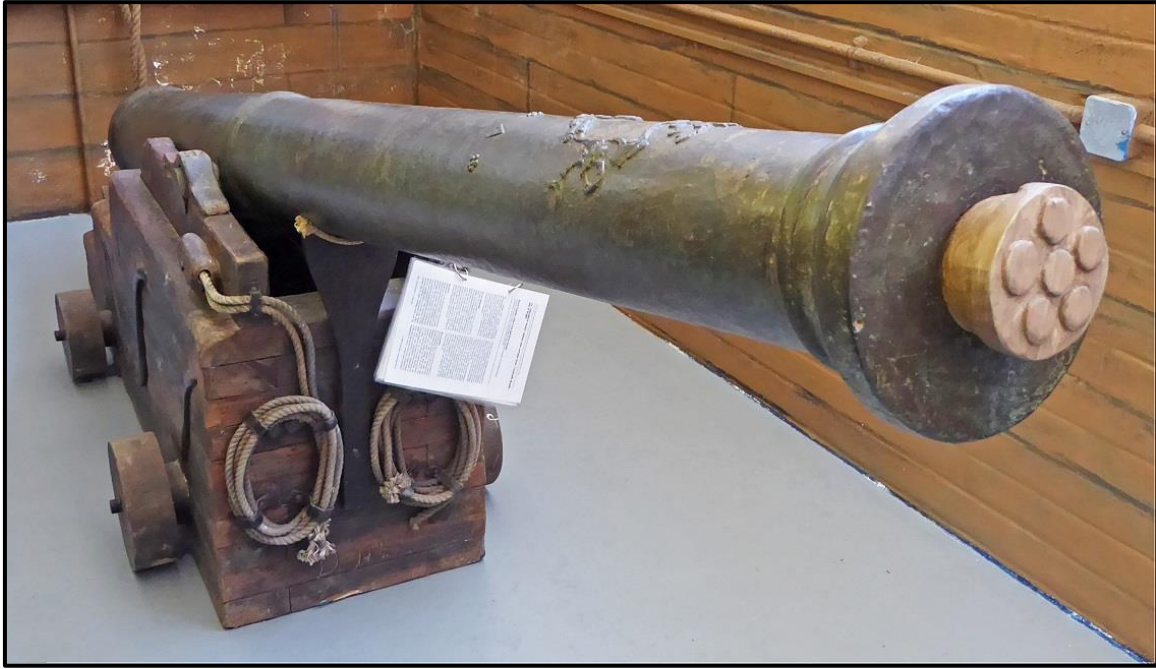


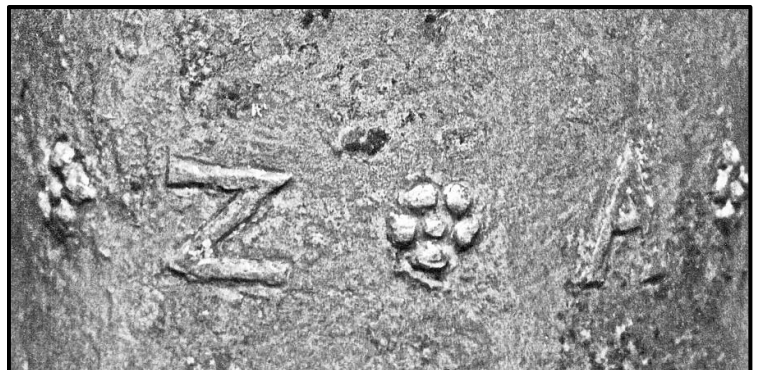
Yarmouth Roads bronze minion



During the early investigations a 16th century bronze gun was raised by a team of Royal Navy divers. It is presumed that the gun came from the "*Yarmouth Roads Wreck*" however, lying 150m/164yards to the east of that site, this has not been proved conclusively.

The gun is a type known as a *minion*. The word 'minion' derives from the French word for cute. A minion was a small cannon used during the Tudor period and into the late 17th century.

The gun maker's mark is clearly visible on the barrel. The initials, **Z A**, tell us that the maker was '*Zuanne Alberghetti*' a member of a famous family of Venetian gun founders. This **Z A** mark dates the guns to the 1570s and 1580s.





The minion is beautifully decorated, illustrating the craftsmanship of Alberghetti. It bears a botanical motif with scrolled ribbons. A blank coat-of-arms is a characteristic mark of his foundry.

While preserving the minion, conservator *Paul Simpson* discovered that the barrel was loaded ready to fire. Was the ship under attack, or was she in trouble and going to call for assistance?



Cannon balls



These shot (cannonballs) were carved from stone.



This photograph shows one of the iron cannonballs recovered from the Yarmouth Roads wreck site. Iron cannonballs were introduced in the 1450s. By the 17th century all cannonballs were cast in iron.



Stone shot IWCMS.2000.2.5025

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