

CAT No 116
K403+K782
Condition Report

Conservation Started: 11/11/2015
Conservation Finished: 12/11/2015
Conservator: Kayleigh Fuller
Time Taken: 2 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 59.8 mm (W)14.4 mm (T) 1.1 mm
Weight before: K403- 1.44g K782 - 3.73g
Weight after: n/a

Digital photography:

Taken with a Nikon Coolpix 4500 digital camera, under daylight or bulbs and Meiji Techno RZ Stereo microscope with an Infinity 1 camera (with analyses capture software) and fibre optic lights, 7-75x magnification. Taken before, during and after.

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification
K403 - Gold fitting decorated with filigree. It is shape like a strip with a protruding "fin" and a square end. A triple line of twisted wire is applied to the outer border forming a herring-bone pattern. The main body is divided into two fields by a single beaded wire. Each field is decorated with a succession of portions of beaded wire arranged in V or ram's head shapes. The decoration in each field is not exactly symmetrical and regularity may have been sacrificed to space available. The "fin" is decorated with a succession of beaded wire scrolls. There are two rivet holes at the square end and one on the end of the fin. The back is plain.

K782- Gold strip, most likely flattened fragment of hilt collar, with beaded filigree spiral decoration in the centre and beaded and twisted filigree wires around the edges. The strip is generally flat (though bent) rather than curved as it probably was originally. It has three (?) empty fastening holes. There are three finished edges and one jagged break edge. On the top edge there is a protrusion that may be a partial loop with fastening hole in the centre.

Associated Objects: n/a

Pre-Conservation Condition: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification

K403- Almost entirely covered by soil. The fitting is incomplete as part of it has been torn off and slightly bent. There are dents and a set of two small cuts at the back. None of the damage appears recent.

K782- Front: ~80% covered with compact, sandy soil that obscures detail. It looks as if all of the filigree is present, though it is lifting from the surface in some areas. The high points of the filigree are worn down in places. There are at least two cracks running from the edges inward. Both are near the soldered seam.

Back: Plain/flat gold with one soldered seam. ~20% covered with patches of compact, sandy soil. There is a dark deposit on the surface near the seam. Many old-looking scratches and a few fresh/new-looking scratches present.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study

Aim: Total cleaning

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, thorn in pin vice/holder, IMS on metals, cotton wool swabs, cocktail stick, Paraloid B72, Reemay Polyester netting 30gsm

The granular soil on the front & back was mechanically removed or reduced where possible using a fine thorn tip secured in a pin vice and a small pure bristle brush. IMS was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of IMS.

The paper K number was adhered to the back with HMG brand Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) from the tube, applied with a cocktail stick.

A storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was made for housing the object. A strip of Tyvek (spun bound polyethylene fibres) was used as a cushion for the object and to help lift it out of the foam.

The two fragments were adhered back together using 30% W/V Paraloid B72 in Acetone.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

See-pre conservation condition

Key Features:

- Fitting with fin-like protrusion
- Ram's head and scrolls filigree decoration
- 3 rivet holes

Samples:

See original fragment condition reports