

K1011 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 02/07/2013

Conservation Finished: 03/07/2013

Conservator: Cristina Mazzola

Time Taken: 8 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 55 mm (W) 25 mm (D) 38 mm (T) 0.5 – 0.7 mm

Weight before: 12.12 g

Weight after: 8.39 g

X-ray: L133

Catalogue number: 290

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight or bulbs and a Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights (20-200x magnification). Taken before and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes:

n/a

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification
Golden sword guard cover made from plain metal plate with circular ornaments on both pointed ends made from beaded wire. The rim used to be folded downwards.

Associated Objects: n/a

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

The object is warped, folded and bent – more so on one half, so that the wire ornament has also been deformed and halfway become detached.

It is partially covered with brown soil.

Around the label on the reverse side some superficial fresh scratches are visible.

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 metalscotton wool swabs, cocktail stick, Paraloid B72

The granular soil on the front and 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.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Within the circular ornaments there is a hole in the middle punched through the base metal from the reverse side (the rims point upwards) – probably used to attach the sword hilt to a base material. Where the wire is detached from the base metal the old soldering points / areas are visible. On the upper and outer sides, the wires show signs of wear.

The plain metal plate shows (old) scrub marks along the long sides, which stop close to the rings - possibly they were generated by freshening the object after soldering the wire rings on or after it has been used for a while?

The rim is partially torn in where the metal sheet is folded. On the folded end a bit of the metal seems missing – possibly the tear is fresh, but otherwise the object is complete.

The metal shows especially on the reverse side some slightly discoloured areas.

Key Features:

- Golden sword guard made from plain metal sheet with circular beaded wire ornaments on both pointed ends.
- Two holes within the circular ornaments
- Folded and bent.

Analysis Undertaken:

Samples:

1. Soil from back
2. Soil from front

References: