

K1018 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 11/03/2013

Conservation Finished: 19/03/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 26mm (W) 11mm (D) 23mm

Weight before: 6.10g

Weight after: 5.44g

X-ray plate: L33/L53

Catalogue number: 45

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight or bulbs and 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: None

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification

Partial gold pommel cap consisting of one shoulder and a rivet casing; the remainder is missing. There are geometric (triangles with two straight edges and one stepped edge) cloisonné cells on the shoulder. There are two tapered, barrel-shaped rivet casings at the end with two raised lines between them.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The object is a fragment of a pommel cap. The breaks look old. There is no trace of garnets or foils visible in the cloisonné cells; only soil is visible. The cells need to be excavated to determine if any other materials are present.

There is soil in recessed areas and in the cloisonné cells. The fragment has general surface abrasion. On the shoulder and sides there are several distinct, old-looking scratches.

The reverse is plain gold, torn, with much soil coverage. The gold has patches of dark tarnish and general surface abrasion.

There is a dent in the side of one of the rivet casings.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study

Aim: Total cleaning / Stabilisation

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, thorn in pin vice/holder, IMS on metals, 50:50 water/IMS on metals, cotton wool swabs, cocktail stick, Paraloid B72

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 or water was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of IMS.

An area of metal required consolidation as it moved when touched and was in danger of detachment with handling or transportation; Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) 20% w/v in acetone was applied with a cocktail stick.

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.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

The cloisonné cells on the shoulder were completely excavated at the request of the conservation manager. There is a small amount of dark residue at the bottom of the cells; otherwise nothing apart from soil was found in the cells. The soil from the cells was retained in a separate sample bag for future study if desired.

A small piece of gold on the bottom of the object was partly detached and mobile. It required consolidation to prevent detachment with handling or transportation. See 'K1018 Treatment Details' for location of consolidated area.

No remains of pins were found in the rivet casings.

Key Features:

- Partial gold pommel cap (shoulder and rivet casing)
- Empty geometric cloisonné cells on shoulder

Samples:

1. soil
2. soil from inside cells