

K1025 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 19/3/2013

Conservation Finished: 19/3/2013

Conservator: Deborah Magnoler

Time Taken: 2 hours 30 minutes

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 26.3mm (W) 10.4 mm

Weight before: 6.14g

Weight after: 7.09 g

X-ray plate: L33/L53

Catalogue number: 45

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight bulbs and Photomicrographs taken using Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights, 20-200x magnification.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes:

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification
Fragment of a gold sword pommel with incomplete surviving cell work. The apex is plain, the surviving shoulders is decorated with a row of square cells divided into two interlocking stepped triangles by an inner cell wall. One of the sides features the remains of a row of rectangular cells that would have decorated the upper border. The underside shows that the pommel is constructed by layers of gold sheet and that the shoulders borders are tubular & hollow. The base that support the cells, as observed from the underside, displays multiple linear intentional incisions. Traces of solder are visible where some of the cell walls were lost or became detached. K1018 joins K1025. A loose cell wall very similar to those in situ on the pommel was found embedded in the soil on the underside. K500, a loose cell wall may also be part of this object.

Associated Objects: K1010, possibly K500 (loose cell wall)

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

Incomplete but structurally stable. The area around the cells has suffered much abrasion, and the scratching here appears deeper and more intentional than the usual micro-scratching left by polishing. The inside of the cells hosts thin remains of a dark material. The gold itself appears quite dull, indicating a relatively high silver content. The part of the base that would have formed the outer, decorated shell, is torn and its edges are fray.

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 15% in acetone.

The granular soil on all sides 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.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

See pre-conservation condition

Key Features:

- Part of a cloisonné pommel
- Interlocked stepped triangles within square cells

Samples:

1. soil from all sides