

K1028 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 29/06/2011

Conservation Finished: 26/09/13, 07/07/2015

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey and Deborah Magnoler, Kayleigh Fuller

Time Taken: 12 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 27.5mm (W) 32mm (D) 13mm

Weight before: 8.34g

Weight after: 5.45g (filigree fitting); 0.43g (hilt plate fragment)

Catalogue number: 411

(K1028b hilt-plate fragment renumbered to K2077)

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.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes:

BA 1971, SSH09, 1001, 6/8/09 EVSC, L7, Gold, 395 (in a triangle)

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

24.09.13: Gold guard plate with filigree decoration. The filigree type is beaded along the edges, twisted and beaded in the centre. The primary decorative scheme is two rows of S-shaped spirals formed of beaded filigree separated by twisted filigree. The object would originally have had a three dimensional shape such as the curved end of an elliptical sword handle guard. It, presumably could have cupped the end of the guard like a chape and then have been held in place by one rivet on each of the ends and a rivet in the central area (this central perforation appears to be an afterthought, as it pierces through the filigree decoration and seems less sophisticated than the two decorated perforations at the ends). The S filigree scrolls would have decorated the outer edge, while the top is a plain sheet of gold with a central element of linear herringbone flanked by fine beaded wire. There are a series of impressions on the undecorated top edge that resemble those that would be left by contact with a beaded wire ring, lending credit to the theory of a guard fitting. The end fragment of a plain hilt plate was found on the inside; this has three perforations and a flanged edge; it does not appear to be obviously associated with the main object and has been renumbered to K2077.

Associated Objects: Pair with K689?

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

The surface is largely covered with soil that contains some plant matter and a few flecks of white mould. The visible gold has some superficial scratches. Some areas of visible filigree have been worn/scraped down. The object is crumpled and bent. Two round, soil-filled fastening holes are visible on the filigree surface. The holes are surrounded by a single beaded filigree wire. Part of one of the S-shaped filigree spirals is missing.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Display

Aim: Partial cleaning

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, cotton swab, cocktail stick, thorn in pin vice/holder, water/IMS on metals

The granular soil on the exterior/interior surface 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.

Two filigree spirals required consolidation as they had partially detached from the surface and were therefore vulnerable to further damage/loss; HMG brand Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) diluted with acetone was applied with a glass micropipette. See 'K1028 Treatment Details' for location of consolidated spirals.

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

A new storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was constructed to house the object.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Soil removal revealed a gold surface decorated with fine beaded and twisted filigree. Though now crushed, the object's original shape was that of a band with a step at both ends bent into an arch shape with a cap on one side (see photos). The cap has a flat gold area with a single, unadorned fastening hole as well as an area partially decorated with beaded and twisted filigree. At the edge of this cap is a jagged break edge.

The gold shows both old-looking and new-looking scratches, and the filigree has been worn/scraped down in several areas. There are four small perforations in the gold. A small amount of orangeish residue is visible on the inside surface around one of the fastening holes. A small area of flat gold on the decorated side is pitted. There is a dark deposit on the decorated surface between two of the filigree spirals. See loan out condition report for the location of all of these features.

Following consolidation of two lifting filigree spirals the object is now stable. Removal of soil from the interior was not attempted at this time because it may help to support the object and soil removal is not necessary for display purposes.

24.09.2013: further cleaning of the inside of the object was carried out. While doing this a gold hilt plate fragment trapped inside the main object fell out and both are now stored in the same box. DM

This object may be a pair with K689, which is at the British Museum at the time of this report.

07/07/2015 - K.Fuller

Boxed with K484

Analysis undertaken

XRF analysis of the object was performed; see 'K1028 XRF Report'.

Samples:

1. Soil from filigree areas
2. Plant matter found in the soil
3. Soil from flat gold area with fastening hole in the centre of the object
4. Black material (organic?) found in soil on flat gold area on the back of the object (ie, interior surface)
5. Soil from flat gold area on the back of the object (ie, interior surface)
6. soil from inside (store with the object)