

K1032 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 15/02/2013

Conservation Finished: 15/02/2013

Conservator: Natalie Harding

Time Taken: 3hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: Distorted (L) 84mm (H) 3mm (Th. edge) 2mm

Weight before: 6.74g

Weight after: 6.03g

Weight with K1369: 7.45g

X-ray: L44, L82

Catalogue number: 156

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: n/a

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification. Length of gold wire made up of two thick twisted beaded wire lengths, divided by one length of single beaded wire. The twisted beaded wire appears to be made up of three single beaded wire strands twisted together and possibly wound around a central core. The wires are soldered on to a gold sheet backing. Heavily damaged.

Associated Objects: K1369

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

Heavily damaged; torn at one end the other end seems to be cut. There is a tear in the piece towards the cut end. Twisted and bent, however the central section remains intact and flat. One hole in the gold backing sheet strip towards the heavier damaged end. This more damaged end is splayed out, the wires detached from each other and going in different directions. Despite the heavy damage, this piece remains stable, although it has a little bit of flex.

Soil covers the entire piece and sits in between the crevasse of the wires.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study / Analysis

Aim: Total cleaning, as much as possible.

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 all over 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.

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:

After cleaning and soil removal, the details of the wires can be more easily seen. The central core can be seen right the end of the piece where it has been torn, cut and damaged. The three twisted wires can be seen wrapped around this core.

Despite the heavy damage, this piece remains stable, although after removal of the soil the flex within the piece has increased.

Key Features:

- Gold beaded wires twisted around a core to create a thicker looking 'rope' wire.

Samples:

1. Soil – all over.