

K1033 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 22/5/13

Conservation Finished: 23/5/13

Conservator: Deborah Magnoler

Time Taken: 1 hrs

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: gold sheet: (L) 12 mm (W) 8 mm - filigree: (L) 17mm (W) 12mm

Total weight before: 1.49g

Weight after: sheet: 0.64g – filigree: 0.32g

Catalogue number: 419

(K1033 hilt-plate fragment renumbered to K1943)

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.

K1033 comprises two, apparently unrelated, items: one fragment of plain gold sheet (now separated and renumbered as K1943, weighing 0.64g, possibly part of a hilt plate, and gold fitting decorated with fine filigree in scrolls formations, as well as a border of plain twisted wire in a herring-bone pattern and linear strands of beaded wire. Three empty rivet holes survive. The original shape of this object was possibly a square or rectangular plate.

Associated Objects: possibly other scroll decorated fragments.

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

Both objects are partly covered in soil. Both appear incomplete and bent. One of the fragments has torn edges. See post-conservation report for details.

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, 50:50 water/IMS on metals, cotton 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.

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 plain gold object appears to have been neatly cut on one side. One end is folded over. The object has a 90° angle border or flange and possibly the remains of a rivet hole. The underside is affected by a red form of superficial discoloration. The filigree object is severely damaged on all sides: the edges are stretched and broken, the object is bent and has suffered considerable abrasion on both the filigree scrolls and the herring-bone border. It does not, however appear to be unstable.

Key features:

- One plain gold object, possibly part of a hilt plate
- One filigree plate with scrolls and herring bone

Samples:

1. soil from all sides.