

## K1042 Condition Report

**Conservation Started:** 20/06/2012

**Conservation Finished:** 02/08/13

**Conservator:** Cymbeline Storey & Deborah Magnoler

**Time Taken:** 6 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** (L) 15mm (W) 11mm (Th.) 4mm

**Weight before:** 1.85g

**Weight after:** 1.56g

**Catalogue number:** 458

### **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:** None

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

Rectangular gold fitting/panel decorated on the front with three sizes of beaded filigree wire in an interlace design. The thickest filigree wire is in the centre. It is flanked on either side by the thinnest wire. A single medium-thickness beaded wire runs around the perimeter on the front.

The back of the object has four ridges of gold protruding from the surface and a thick layer of light to dark green material (thought to be corroded copper alloy) in the centre.

**Associated Objects:** None known at present

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

**Front:** the gold has general abrasion. Some high points of filigree are worn down. Some of the beaded filigree is worn down flat, particularly around the perimeter. There are a few patches of grey tarnish. About 60% of the surface is covered with compact, sandy soil with no remarkable features.

**Back:** ~90% covered with compact, sandy soil with a few strands of plant matter and two small patches of fluffy, white mould. There is a thick layer of green material thought to be

corroded copper alloy in the centre with four ridges of gold protruding through the soil - one near each corner.

**Treatment:** Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

**Purpose:** Display / Analysis / Study

**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 front 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.

A small amount of soil was removed from the back to better visualise the thick green deposit and the gold ridges. Further soil excavation and/or x-ray may help clarify what is present on the back of the object.

Corrosion products were left in situ; corrosion was not active and can be further cleaned or stabilised at a later date.

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

02/08/13: The soil at the back of the object was further reduced and a new label attached. The same method and materials as in the first phase of conservation were used. The thick layer of green material at the back is brittle and fragile, and possibly only kept in place by four bent rivets; part of the soil was left around it in order not to destabilise it. DM

#### **Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:**

Cleaning the front of the object revealed beaded filigree in an interlace design. There is a mistake in one of the strands of thin filigree - the strand is too short and curves away from the thick wire next to it. See photographs.

The design can now be better seen and appreciated on display.

The back of the object has four distinct ridges (two longer than the other two) that might have been some kind of mechanism for attaching the object to something else. In the centre of the back there is a thick layer of green material, probably corroded copper alloy. Its function is unknown.

#### **Key Features:**

- Rectangular fitting with beaded filigree
- Thick layer of green material, likely corroded copper alloy, on back

- Mistake in filigree application

**Samples:**

1. soil - front
2. green material - back **DISPOSED**
3. plant material in soil - back **DISPOSED**
4. soil - back **ADDED TO SAMPLE 1**