

K1048 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 17/5/2011

Conservation Finished: 18/5/2011

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 28 mm (W) ~20 mm (H) ~15 mm (Th.) <0.5mm

Weight before: 1.40g, excluding already-detached soil

Weight after: 0.83g, excluding K number label

Catalogue number: 295

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: SSH 09, 1971, (1001), 08, 382 (in a triangle), 6/8/09

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

Partial gold hilt plate with one empty, round gemstone setting at the end surrounded by a single strand of beaded filigree. The edge is slightly bevelled.

Associated Objects: None

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

About 80% of the surface is obscured by compact, sandy soil that has some plant material in it. There is a patch of white, fibrous material in one area of soil and another patch of unknown brown, organic-looking material in the soil.

The gemstone setting is apparently empty; only soil is visible. The other end of the hilt plate is missing. The object is bent and folded in on itself. The two sides of the hilt plate are bent and splayed outward. They are also very thin and move when touched. The object is very fragile.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Analysis/Study; object is being cleaned to facilitate SEM/XRF analysis in Cardiff

Aim: Total 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.

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. 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:

Soil removal revealed very thin, delicate, bevelled gold hilt plate. There are some minor scratches and dents on the surface and some cracks radiating from the edges. The gemstone setting is empty and has a hole in the middle of it. The beaded filigree wire is lifting in two places, broken in one place, and some of the beads have been worn/scraped down. See photos.

There is one possible maker's mark visible at the edge where the central hole of the hilt plate was cut; see loan-out condition report for location.

.The object is extremely fragile. Handling should be kept to a minimum.

Samples:

1. Soil
2. White, fibrous material in soil **DISPOSED**
3. Dark, unknown material (organic matter?) in soil