

## K1062 Condition Report

**Conservation Started:** 3/10/12

**Conservation Finished:** 17/10/12, 18/1/2016

**Conservator:** Deborah Magnoler, K. Fuller

**Time Taken:** 20 hrs, 3 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** (L) 82.7 mm (W) 11.2 mm (D) 3.8 mm

**Weight before:** 12.86g (strip) 1.87g (panel)

**Weight after:** 11.47g (strip) 1.61g (panel)

**Catalogue number:** 556

(K1062b gold sheet with serpent renumbered to K1948)

### **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:**

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

The object is a cloisonné gold and garnet strip with a single filigree border. The item is bent at the centre: this feature might be intentional or due to damage. Part of a silver rivet is attached in a rivet hole at the back. There is a round hole on the back, possibly an empty rivet hole. The object features a central square hole visible from the back. The object has a rectangular recess in the centre, filled with what appears to be a dark material/paste, as well as soil. The central recess divides the strip in two cloisonné fields each containing 30 cells each. The central mushroom shaped stones are flanked by notched and stepped triangles and other auxiliary shapes. One end of the strip is complete and closed. The end appears to finish in another recess with an open end. This too contains the remains of a dark material and soil. The back shows 3 intentional parallel incisions running vertically.

The strip comes with an associated filigree decorated panel, complete with head and tail. The border of the panel is formed by four lengths of beaded wire, joining at the corners. The back is covered in soil but the remains of some of the green and black paste can be seen attached to it.

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

This gold strip is covered with soil. It is bent and distorted. The one end of the strip was cut (not fresh) and the out walls are bent in. Part of the filigree border is broken, detached and bent over on the cloisonné surface. The cloisonné field adjacent to the open end has suffered much damage, with loss of two garnets, severe fragmentation of three garnets and disruption of gold cells. The other field is comparatively intact. . The back of the strip's gold surface

has dark or blackish uneven tinge (possibly tarnish). Visible from the back: the gold base of the closed end has been pushed back to reveal the end of the cells structure and the paste contained therein. The filigree border has suffered localised abrasion.

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

**Purpose:** Study

**Aim:** Total cleaning and Stabilisation

**Materials:** thorn in pin vice/holder, IMS on metals, 50:50 water/IMS on metals, cotton wool swabs, cocktail stick, Paraloid B72 (25% w/v in acetone)

The granular soil on the back, the sides and the front of the object was mechanically removed with a fine thorn tip secured in a pin vice. No solvents were used for soil sample collecting. When the thin layer of soil was left on the surface, 50:50 water/IMS cotton wool swabbing was applied to soften and remove the soil. Fine silt under the granular soil on the front and on the sides was removed with a fine thorn tip secured in a pin vice and the removed soil was collected as a sample. 50:50 water/IMS was applied to soften the soil to facilitate removal. The paste in the central recess is very brittle and fragmentary: in order to avoid loss a piece of spun bound polyester was attached to close the back opening. The adhesive used in a 20 % solution of Paraloid B72 in acetone. The back of the filigree snake panel was only partially cleaned.

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.

#### **18/1/2016- K. Fuller**

Item was cleaned further at end where soil was present. The middle piece of soil had calcium deposits and other unusual inclusions all the way through it, therefore a decision was made not to clean it further.

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

3 parallel making marks at the back. Bulky paste in empty cells. The paste in the central recess is brittle. This paste appears to be of more than one colour, with a white core, mixed with green particles (possibly copper corrosion) and a black outer layer.

#### **18/1/2016- K. Fuller**

A pin head was found when the end bit was cleaned

#### **Key Features:**

- Solder marks visible where the border wire is lifted
- Remains of one silver rivet
- Standard backing foils
- Exposed cell structure at the closed end
- Evidence of cutting at the open end.

- The filigree snake panel is larger than those associate with the slotted strip suite. The snake is also formed by a looser knot.

**Analysis Undertaken:**

XRF analysis of the object was performed. See document 'K1062 XRF Report'.

**Samples:**

1. black material from central recess (sent to the BM)
  1. a. Soil - central recess
  2. soil - back **ADDED TO SAMPLE 1**
  3. material shed form the centre recess (in box)
  4. Soil - back , possible plant material **ADDED TO SAMPLE 1**
  5. soil - front **ADDED TO SAMPLE 1**
  6. soil - sides **ADDED TO SAMPLE 1**
  7. black material from end recess
  8. plant material from the front **DISPOSED**
  9. paste from cell in broken area, missing garnet **DISPOSED**
  10. garnet fragment - found mixed in soil in broken area
  11. snake panel: soil form front **ADDED TO SAMPLE 1**
  12. Snake panel: soil from back. **ADDED TO SAMPLE 1**