

K106 Condition Report

Date: 15/02/2012

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 3 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 23mm (H) 7mm (T) 2mm

Weight before: 1.61g

Weight after: 1.38g

Catalogue number: 507

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.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: 68 (in a triangle); 24/7/09

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

Fragment (just more than half) of gold hilt fitting with geometric and mushroom-shaped foiled cloisonné garnet decoration. One end is finished and has a 90-degree step. The other end is gently curved and solid gold with a straight break edge. There are 25 cells and 10 (?) garnets.

Associated Objects: None known at present.

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

The garnets have backing foils that have a plain bump decoration. There are two exposed foils with dark tarnish. There are 25 cells and 10 (?) garnets – there may be more hidden by soil. The garnets are deep red in colour.

Front: ~30% soil coverage, mostly in cells. The gold has many superficial scratches. The solid gold curved end has many old-looking scratches, a dent, and a few patches of dark tarnish. The edge of one cell wall is crushed; otherwise the cell structure is in fairly good condition. Two visible garnets are broken with both halves in situ. One garnet is broken with half apparently missing. Some garnets are raised, sunk, or tilted in their cells. There is an unknown orange residue on one garnet.

Edges: Uneven surface, especially on one long edge, with patches of dark tarnish, particularly around the step. The break edge is covered with soil but appears to be straight with no jagged edges.

Visible edges/edging showing box construction on both edges.

Back: ~90% covered with soil that contains one glossy, black inclusion (garnet chip?). Visible gold has light orange to dark tarnish. There is one hole in the gold and one empty fastening hole with an uneven, raised edge indicating it was punched through from the front.

Key Features:

- Geometric and mushroom-shaped cloisonné garnet decoration
- Fragment
- Stepped end
- Gold backing foils

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Display / Study

Aim: To attach K number

Materials: cocktail stick, Paraloid B72

The paper K number was adhered to the soil on the back with HMG brand Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) from the tube, applied with a cocktail stick.

No further work was deemed necessary for the object to be displayed in Lichfield. The soil can be excavated at a later date as the requested for the research programme.

A new storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was constructed to house the object. A strip of Tyvek (spunbonded polyethylene fabric) was used as a cushion for the object and to help lift it out of the foam.

AUGUST 2013: Removed soil from object using thorn in a pin vice, IMS, cotton wool swabs and brushes.

Several loose garnets and backing foils required adhesion to the cell walls to prevent detachment or loss with handling; HMG brand Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) from the tube was applied with a cocktail stick.

7 garnets are missing completely. Backing foils are present in 4 of these cells (pattern: general bumps). Half of one of the long rectangular garnets is missing as well. Several garnets are broken and chipped.

There are two round, empty fastening holes near the stepped edge. There is a raised lip of metal around these holes on the back of the object, suggesting that they were punched through from the front.

There is a distinct dent in one edge. The gold has patchy dark discolouration (probably from burial) and general surface abrasion.

There is a crack adjacent to a distinct dent on the back of the object. It is stable.

Samples:

1. soil from back and intact garnet areas of front
2. soil from empty cloisonné cells
3. tiny gold fragment found in soil

