

K1083 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 19/03/2013

Conservation Finished: 19/03/2013

Conservator: Natalie Harding

Time Taken: 3hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 50mm (W) variable 10-7mm

Weight before: 3.39grams

Weight after: 2.21grams

Catalogue number: 247

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: SSH09, 1971, 1001, 30/7/09, M11, 180 (inside a triangle).

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification
One half of a torn and damaged gold hilt plate with boss or stone housing at one end. The piece as been torn so that only one half of a length of the tang aperture remains. The piece is covered in soil, therefore details are obscured.

Associated Objects: n/a

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

The piece is damaged yet seems stable. The piece has been torn so that only half of the hilt plate remains and it has been twisted, crumpled and distorted. There is a medium covering of soil obscuring any further damage and details of the piece. Soil fills the cavity of the boss or stone setting, therefore it cannot be certain if this contains a stone or not, however it appears that it may not.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study / Analysis

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 all over the object 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.

No corrosion products were left found.

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 piece remains structurally stable.

Cleaning and soil removal revealed that the boss or stone setting did not contain a stone; however the style of setting and the height of the gold band which forms the setting suggest that this may have housed a stone. At the base of the inside of this setting is a hole, approximately 2mm in diameter, possibly for a rivet. The setting is surrounded by a circlet of three beaded wires, one thicker in the centre, two thinner on the outer.

The gold sheet on the hilt below the setting is torn and has been distorted upwards. At this point on the reverse deep sweeping linear scratches mark the surface. These appear to be modern. Further down the piece the gold sheet is crumpled and the area that forms the tang aperture is twisted. A straight line on the reverse of the aperture is scribed into the gold sheet, this may be a layout marking.

The gold is very yellow in colour with small areas of iron staining and black tarnish.

Key Features:

- Setting for a stone surrounded by a circlet of beaded wire.
- Remains of a tang aperture cut out.

Samples:

1. Soil – all over.