

K108 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 10/01/2013

Conservation Finished: 10/01/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 6 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 30.5mm (W) 12mm (H) 14mm (Th. edge) 1.5mm (Th) sheet <0.5mm

Weight before: 12.54g

Weight after: 7.67g

X-ray: L26

Catalogue number: 107

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 and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: None

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

Small gold hilt collar with filigree decoration. Tapered slightly; wider at bottom and narrower at top. The filigree design is an interlace formed of thick beaded wire flanked on either side by a thinner beaded wire. Running along the top and bottom edges are one thick and one thin beaded wire.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The collar is bent and distorted. The exterior of the collar is ~90% covered with a thick layer of soil, making assessment of the condition difficult. Visible metal has many abrasions and dents, some of which are deep. The high points of the filigree have been worn down in some places, particularly down the centre of one side. The filigree appears to be secure, but in the first conservation of the object a protruding filigree wire was protected by a blob of adhesive to reduce the risk of it catching gloves or packaging.

There are possible laying-out marks adjacent to some of the filigree wires.

The interior is completely filled with soil.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study

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 on the exterior and interior 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 adhesive protecting the protruding wire was left in situ.

The paper K number was adhered to the interior 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 filigree interlace appears to be zoomorphic, with a snake-like head visible. The condition of the filigree is inconsistent; it ranges from very good to very worn down.

The object has numerous very obvious/prominent laying-out marks on the exterior adjacent to the filigree wires – far many more than seen on any other object thus far.

There is patchy, dark tarnish on some areas of the collar. There is a hole in the gold at the pinched point of one of the sides of the collar. Both sides are torn but stable. The blob of adhesive applied in the first conservation of the object was left in situ to protect the protruding wire from catching gloves or packaging.

Key Features:

- Small gold hilt collar with filigree interlace decoration
- Very prominent laying-out marks on exterior

Samples:

1. soil – exterior
2. soil – interior
3. soil – interior
4. soil - interior