

K1093 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 04/02/2013

Conservation Finished: 04/02/2013

Conservator: Ciarán Lavelle

Time Taken: 5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 17.5mm; (H) 10mm (W) 8mm

Weight before: 1.40g

Weight after: 1.07g

X-ray plate: L44

Catalogue number: 59

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:

K1093. BA 1971, SSH09, 1001, MII, 30/07/09, 186 (in a triangle/object number). X-Ray: L44.

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

Fragment from one end of a filigree decorated gold pommel cap, comprising a double rivet sheath, decorated with scroll-work and framed with, thicker, beaded wires, over a sheet-metal structure. No rivets remain in the sheaths.

Associated Objects: None known at present.

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

The object appears to be the rivet end of a pommel cap, but is obscured by a moderate/heavy layer of loose and compact soil. There appears to be 4 sides to the object, 3 of which may be break edges. One side has a fragment of filigree visibly protruding from the body of the object.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Display / Study / Analysis

Aim: Total cleaning / Stabilisation

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 front/back 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.

An area of metal, a thin sliver on the side of the object, near one of the ends, required consolidation; Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) 10% w/v in acetone was applied with a glass micropipette.

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:

During Treatment:

CuA corrosion products were visible in the soil on the interior/back of the object. Two small fragments of gold sheet were uncovered in the soil in the interior/back of the object. The fragments were placed in a glass vial and stored with the object.

After treatment:

The object is the rivet section from a pommel cap. The outer surface has a spiral decoration on top of a gold sheet. The sheet is curved with two bumps, one for each rivet. There is a filigree border around the whole section. The two rivet holes have suffered damage and is now just one large whole, with the central divide missing. On both ends there are remains of the larger side sections of a pommel head. On one side this takes the form of a small portion of the underlying gold sheet and some filigree decoration, one length of filigree sticks out away from the object. On the opposite side there is a small section of gold sheet that has curled back on it-self outwards away from the interior, no evidence of any remaining filigree.

The surface of the object has visible back/red corrosion/tarnish across the entire surface, especially visible on the interior and the filigree. There are signs of two joins on the back, a small squared sheet on one side and a larger all covering sheet, both overlying the sheet that makes up the rivet end section. The central sheet of gold, upon which the spiral filigree is visible, is heavily damaged, with surface loss, cracking, flaking visible across the entire surface, especially from the interior. The interconnectivity may be the only thing keeping the object intact. This damage is located on one side of the bend between two rivet mounds. The base of the object appears to be splayed out slightly to look wider than it would have been. The filigree spirals and the filigree border on the top of the object, closest to the rivet holes are much worn in appearance, as well as evidence of nicks and scratches across the entire surface. This is probably caused by wear and tear during use.

Key Features:

- Damage to the metal along the length of the object, resulting in the loss of 5 garnets.
- Unadorned but polished gold surface on the sides and the back.

Analysis Undertaken:

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

Samples:

Sample 1 – Soil from the surface of the object.

Sample 2 – Two small fragments of gold foil.

References: