

K1097 Condition Report

Conservation Started:10/12/2012

Conservation Finished: 17/12/2012

Conservator: Deborah Magnoler

Time Taken: 25 hrs

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 37.5mm (W) 17mm (H) 16.5mm (Th. edge) 1mm

Weight before: 15.72g

Weight after: 6.69g

X-ray plate: L2/L9

Catalogue number: 17

(K1097b gold sheet renumbered to K1953, catalogue number 682; K1097c silver sheet renumbered to K1954)

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

A small pommel with filigree decoration and one end missing. The other end is a rivet fitting with two rivets still in situ. The rivets are bent and appear to have been severed at the tip, they are mobile and tend to rotate and slide out of their holes. Some of the interlace filigree decoration is visible under the thick soil deposit covering most of the object. The apex of the pommel is plain. The object comes with a separate small fragment of gold sheet in a gelatine capsule (now renumbered as K1953). This fragment does not appear to be obviously related to the pommel.

Associated Objects:

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

The object is almost entirely covered by a thick layer of soil. One end is missing. The other end (rivet fitting) is still present but some of the filigree wire strands are broken and lifted. The pommel has been compressed out of shape at the missing fitting end, and spread wider at the end with the fitting still in situ. The rivets are bent and held in place by soil but may become mobile once the soil is removed.

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, cotton wool swabs, cocktail stick, small Plastazote plugs to secure the rivets (no adhesive used)

The granular soil on the front, back and inside was mechanically removed or reduced where possible using a fine thorn tip secured in a pin vice and a small pure bristle brush. IMS was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of IMS.

Oxidation forms a slightly darkening layer on the surface of the object, and this was not removed.

The paper K number was adhered to the inner side with Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) from the tube, applied with a fine natural bristled brush.

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 metal base behind the filigree has suffered bending and tearing in several places on both sides. The panel on side 2 (with river fittings on the left) is partially detached from the apex and shoulders. Side two has suffered extensive abrasion of the wirework. The base gold on side 2 is fragile, cracked in the central area and features tears and holes adjacent to the herringbone border. A small portion of the twisted plain wire on the lower left corner is missing. Side 1 (with rivet fittings on the right) also has a fragile base metal, with small cracks in the central area, a whole on the left and a large tear on the lower right end. The wire work has suffered localised abrasion. From the type of breakage visible it appears that the missing end was forcibly torn off. At this end the metal has been severely bent and part of the herring-bone wire on the shoulder is disrupted and lifted, the surviving right fitting is decorated with strands of herring-bone wire arranged horizontally: they have suffered minor wearing, but some of the strands are lifting. The apex has suffered micro-scratches and small nicks, but is generally undamaged. The inner side was excavated. Two unusually large pebbles were found inside. A large amount of a fibrous plant material was also found inside. This has the form of strands and it may be a light coloured fibrous wood or the remains of a large root or weed - some of this plant material was left inside the pommel and some of it was sampled in a glass vial. The two rivets appear to have been cut at the tip. They are slightly bent and mobile, and they need to be secure in place in order to avoid their loss or damage.

Key Features:

- Small pommel (probably 4-5 cm long as whole)
- Filigree interlace, slightly different on each side, no obvious zoomorphic feature.
- Herring-bone plain wire strands on each shoulder and around the border of each side
- Plain apex
- Twp gold, round headed rivets in situ.
- Large amount of plant material found inside (may be wood)

Samples:

1. soil lumps from the outside
2. soil from the outside - bottom **ADDED TO SAMPLE 1**
3. soil and plant material from the inside
4. white mineral lump mixed to soil, from the outside **DISPOSED**
5. seed, from the outside **DISPOSED**
6. two large pebbles from the inside
7. charcoal, from soil on the bottom
8. plant of wood from the inside
9. Silver sheet fragment found excavating the inside (now K...)