

K1103 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 04/02/2013

Conservation Finished: 04/02/2013

Conservator: Jen Leigh

Time Taken: (Conservation: 2.66hrs, Documentation: 3.25hrs) 5.91 hours
Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 22mm (W) 19mm (H) 4mm (Th. edge) 1mm (Th. sheet) <0.5mm

Weight before: 2.04g

Weight after: 1.57g

X-ray: L44

Catalogue number: 132

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: SSH09 1971 1026 18/8/09 Spoil heap

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

A gold fragment, slightly distorted and damaged, possibly part of a hilt collar, which comprises of a strip of plate metal, decorated with a few filigree tight scroll ornaments either side of the blank centre, and a twisted wire edging. The piece is convex (presuming decoration is on the outer face).

Associated Objects: TBC

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

[All observational reference as viewed from the front with the twisted edging uppermost.]

The object is damaged and distorted. It is almost a 'U' in shape because of the sharp bends from the damage. There is little visible surface enrichment. The object is partially covered/filled with granular soil mainly concentrated to the rear of the object. Where the band has been distorted resulting in the twisted wire edging coming away from the plate on the top right-hand corner a void has been created, and since filled with soil. The left-hand curved corner has a large amount of soil to the rear. There is some abrasion to the twisted wire edge. It appears as though the filigree scroll ornament should be of three per side but if this is the case the left-hand side has lost the central scroll. The right-hand terminal is squashed and the end to the left-hand is probably missing a terminal and has some slight twisted distortion to it. The twisted edge frames the whole object up to the right-hand terminal.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study

Aim: Full cleaning

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, thorn in pin vice/holder, 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 (sharpened with a scalpel for the more intricate areas) 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 pure bristle brush. The surface was washed with IMS and a small pure bristle brush.

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.

The object was replaced in its storage box padded with white polyethylene foam. 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 object has suffered distortion and has distinct folds on the one side to create the ~90 degree bend suggesting that the piece would probably have been straight (but not necessarily flat).

On both sides there is a squashed section (approx 10mm LH, 11mm RH) of double-edged beaded twist, and the slightly curled edge of the central area of plate opposite the twisted edge would also suggest this was edged both sides.

The object has suffered distortion on the right-hand half of the plate resulting in tearing the twist from the plate and the loss of at least one ammonite 'S' scroll, and the lifting of one half of another which also has a crack along the base of the part holding it on. Particular care should be taken around this.

It would appear as though the ammonite 'S' scrolls should continue throughout the length of the piece which looks as if it has been ripped apart from its parent pieces, resulting in one particularly mangled end on the right-hand and a slightly less distorted end on the other.

The object was most probably straight but slightly concave, perhaps an edging strip or border piece. Much of the twisted edge and some of the 'S' scrolls have been abraded to wear away the beaded rope detail on the front.

No visible enrichment can be discerned anywhere on the object.

Key Features:

- Ammonite 'S' scroll decoration
- Double-edged with twisted beaded wire

Samples:

1. soil