

K1118 Condition Report

FRAGILE – HANDLE WITH CARE

Conservation Started: 4/1/13

Conservation Finished: 10/1/13

Conservator: Deborah Magnoler

Time Taken: 10 hrs

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 32.5mm (H) 16.5mm (Th. edge) 1.5mm

Weight before: 16.64g

Weight after: 6.75g

X-ray plate: L53

Catalogue number: 110

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 sf 439 P13 1001 10/8/09 1971

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

A gold collar decorated with fine zoomorphic filigree. Both sides are thorn. The long edges are bordered with two types of wire. One edge is bordered by a standard row of beaded wire, in which the seams are visible on many beads. The opposite edge is decorated with a torc-like wire, composed of two strands of fine beaded wire twisted together. The decoration on the front is divided into three vertical fields. Two multiple rows of herring-bone filigree, flanked by two torc-like strands, divide these fields. The fields at each end are decorated with an obvious zoomorphic figure in each; these have discernible heads, necks, bodies & legs. They are formed by a variety of wire types and arrangements: plain herring-bone, fine & larger beaded wire and round arrangements of gold globules. The eyes of the animals are gold globules surrounded by beaded wire roundels. The central panel has interlaced decoration made of larger beaded wire portions flaked by finer beaded wire, but has no discernible animal features. The back is plain but the depression on the back plate caused by the soldering of the wire patterns can be seen here.

Associated Objects:

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

Broken and each end. There are signs of tearing and deep abrasion at each end; some of the wire is loose and lifted here, and the fine strands are potentially at risk of breaking. The collar is bent out of shape and there is a tear from the border in next to one of the dividing fields: the structure has a certain flex to it and care should be taken not to compress the object, as this may result in breakage. The collar is almost entirely covered and filled in 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, cotton wool swabs, cocktail stick, Paraloid B72

The granular soil on the front and 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 was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of IMS.

A suspended strand of beaded wire at one of the broken ends required consolidation; Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) 10% w/v in acetone was applied with natural bristle.

Corrosion products were left in situ; corrosion was not active and can be further cleaned or stabilised at a later date.

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:

see description. The object is very fragile, at risk of bending and breaking further and the suspended wires at the ends are at risk of catching and bending. A slight reddish tinge to the gold surface, and localised red and dark tarnish at the ends, but no major oxidation or discolouration. A lump of what could possibly be iron slag or casting waste was found in the inner folds of the object.

Key Features:

- Two unusual “dragon” like animals with discernible body parts.
- Multiple types and arrangements of wire to render the body
- Gold globules in round arrangements.
- The outer borders are both different.
- Iron slag or casing waste found?

Analysis Undertaken:

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

Samples:

1. soil from the outside
2. plant material found mixed with soil on the outside & inside **DISPOSED**
3. soil from the inside & folds
4. Fe slag or casting waste?