

K1126 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 08.07.13, 12:15

Conservation Finished: 09.07.13, 17:00

Conservator: Cristina Mazzola

Time Taken: 12 hrs

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 24 mm (W) 23 mm (H sides) 3 – 4.5 mm (W strip) 4.5 – 7 mm (L strip) ca. 35 mm

Weight before: 4.44 g

Weight after: 4.32 g

Weight with K644: 12.25g

X-ray: L23, L122

Catalogue number: 175

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight or bulbs and a Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights (20-200x magnification). Taken before and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes:

n/a

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification
Golden strip with garnet cloisonné ornament

Associated Objects: K644

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

The object is bent backwards and warped. Eight garnets are visible, four of them are sunken in. The rest of the cells is filled with soil, thus it cannot be distinguished, if these garnets are missing or just not visible. Both ends are torn and end in open cells without garnets.

One of the lengthy edges on the back has a fresh looking grate mark (see K1126 AT back 1.JPG).

The object has been previously cleaned – only the cells without garnets are still filled with soil and on the back in the middle fold are soil residues with a whitish substance.

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 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.

The soil in the cells was mechanically removed with a thorn wetted with IMS.

The remaining paste in cells 2, 5 and 15 had to be consolidated with Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) 20% w/v in acetone. The gold foils in cells 0, 1, 7 and 9 were fixed with a dot of Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) ca. 30% w/v in acetone (see fig. 1).

A label was already present.

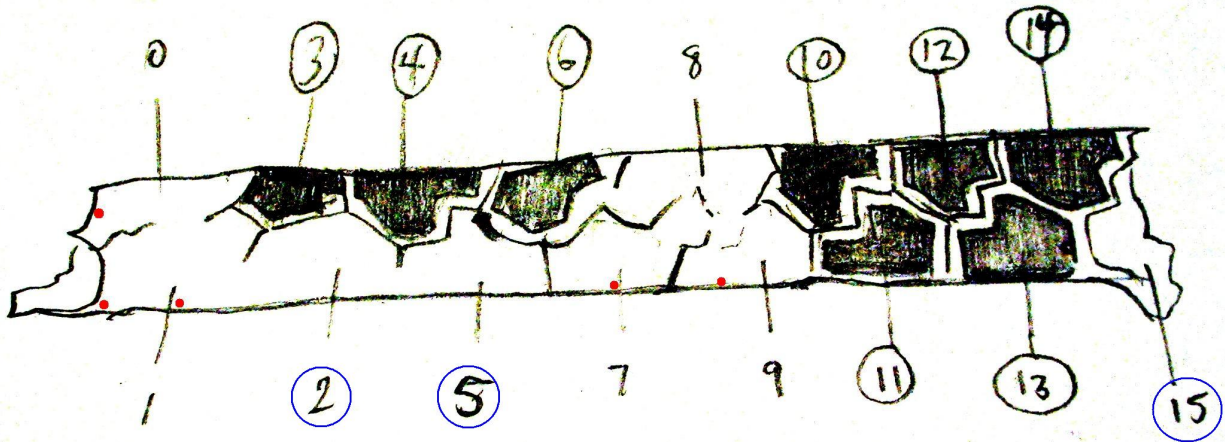


Figure 1: Sketch of K1126 stretched out. the red dots indicate Paraloid B72 dots, the blue circles the cells with P B72-consolidated paste residues.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Cells 3, 4, 6 and 10 – 14 still contain garnets, but apart from 13 and 14 all are sunken in or otherwise moved out of their original position.

Cells 0, 7 and 9 contain gold waffle sheet with some paste residue underneath.

Cells 1, 2, 5, 8 and 15 contain paste residues.

The colour of the metal and the lack of tarnishing indicates a high gold content (an XRF analysis was not performed).

The side walls have been soldered to the base metal – in some areas slight dents mark the seams (see K1126 AT x20 soldering seams on side.jpg).

In some places the metal separators have been torn from the sides bz the deformation – here the soldering lines can still be seen (eg. around cell 2; see K1126 AT x30 soldering lines around cell 2.jpg).

The waffle sheets had been folded up around the lower sides of the garnets in the cells (see K1126 AT x30 garnet w Au foil wrapping the side.jpg).

In cell 8 scratch marks on the inside of the cell bridge are visible – unclear if they are new or old (see K1126 AT x30 scratch marks cell 8.jpg and K1126 BT front 2.JPG).

Key Features:

- Gold strip with garnet cloisonné
- Torn edges on both strip ends
- 16 cells overall: 8 garnets still present, 3 cells with gold sheet and paste, 5 cells with paste only
- Soldering lines visible where metal bridges have been torn off sides.

Analysis Undertaken:

n/a

Samples:

1-5 see sample list

6. Soil
7. cell 1 – fragments of paste
8. cell 2 – fragments of gold foil and paste
9. cell 5 – black fragment (paste?)
10. cell 8 – fragments of gold foil and paste
11. cell 15 – gold fragment

References: