

K 1147 (gold and garnet fitting) Condition Report

Conservation Started: 28 May 2013

Conservation Finished: 28 May 2013

Conservator: Kathy Hall

Time Taken: 8 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: max length: 29mm, max width: 6mm, max thickness: 2mm

Weight before: 11.86g

Weight after: 3.81g

Catalogue number: 504

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight bulbs and Photomicrographs taken using Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights, 20-200x magnification.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: BA 1971 SSH09 K16 1001 Δ481 gold 12/9/09 Do not clean

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

Associated Objects: None

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

Gold and garnet strip encased in soil. Seems to have been originally flat, now bent into V shape. Much soil inside the V but much of garnet decoration is already visible. No organic or additional objects visible. Within dark brown soil are patches of paler orange powdery deposit, lots of rootlets and some red coloured (?) quartz grains. These not separated, all saved together in soil bag.

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, 50:50 water/IMS on metals, water on garnets, 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.

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:

Cleaning revealed two attachment holes on the undecorated side with copper corrosion products around one and pale green powder visible in the centre of both.

Garnet decoration in excellent condition except for one missing garnet (no backing foil or paste preserved) and one garnet flipped onto side where the strip is bent. Soil left in place around this one to keep it securely in place.

Samples:

1. Soil from around the artefact
2. Possible charred seed