

K116 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 14/03/13

Conservation Finished: 14/03/13

Conservator: Ciarán Lavelle

Time Taken: 2 Hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 55mm (H) 5mm (Th. edge) 1mm

Weight before: 4.66g

Weight after: 3.98g

X-ray: L53

Catalogue number: 148

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

Long thin filigree panel bent in a 'V' shaped.

Associated Objects:

None known at present.

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

The object is a long thin gold panel strip with a filigree panel on the top. The filigree is bent in a 'V' Shape and twisted in places. Both ends appear to be break edges. The surface is covered in a moderate/heavy layer of loose and compact soil obscuring the surface and the condition of the surface.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Display / Study / Analysis

Aim: Total cleaning (as far as possible) / Stabilisation

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/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 or water 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:

The object is a long thin gold panel strip with a filigree panel on the top, it appears if it was originally a hilt collar or at the least a circular strip. The panel is bent in a 'V' Shape and twisted in places, it is warped and twisted in appearance. Both ends appear to be break edges. The reverse surface is smooth and unadorned with a small fragment of filigree flattened into the corner. There is evidence two possible joins, one on the bend and one on the edge of the longest arm of the 'V', where there is overlapping fragments of metal over the panel strips. There is a long straight cut in the edge of the smallest arm of the 'V' where a knife was possibly used to cut the panel off its original object/surface. There is also evidence of possible cut marks on the bend on the reverse with a series of grooves visible. The filigree is damaged in appearance with incisions, nicks and scratches across the surface and general flattening and wear damage visible.

The gold surface on the reverse is polished and unadorned in appearance. Soil is still visible on the surface in hard to clean areas on surface, especially around the bent/warped areas which were hard to reach. Due to time/equipment constraints this excess soil could not be removed without causing damage to the surface so it was left in situ. The gold is tarnished in appearance (yellow/orange/red and black), especially on the front surface, with nicks, scratches, dents, and general wear and tear visible on the surface. There is some insoluble crustations and hard to remove soil/tarnish on the gold surfaces.

Key Features:

- Long, thin 'V' shaped gold panel with filigree decoration.
- Cut marks on the reverse surface and on the smallest arm of the 'V'.
- Flattened/damaged areas visible on the surface.

Samples:

Sample 1 – Soil From the surface.

References: