

K117 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 18/1/13

Conservation Finished: 18/1/13

Conservator: Ciarán Lavelle

Time Taken: 4 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 48mm (W) 36mm (D) 13mm (H) flange 2.5mm (Th) sheet <0.5mm (Diam) filigree collars 9mm

Weight before: 13.93g

Weight after: 8.09g

Catalogue number: 271

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:

4 (in an orange circle), K117, 20 (in a triangle/cut), 24/7/09

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

Long oval hilt plate that has two bosses, one on either end. The object has been bent in on itself.

Associated Objects: None known at present.

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

The object is a hilt plate that has been bent in on it-self creating one long arm and one smaller arm. The object is covered in a medium/heavy layer of loose and compact soil, especially the interior where the object is bent in on itself. There are visible signs of distortion, warping, tears and protrusions on the surface but the full extent is partially obscured by the soil. There are two bosses at either end of the object with some possible filigree decoration surrounding them. The surface appears to be un decorated, but polished in nature.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Display / Study / Analysis

Aim: Total cleaning / Stabilisation

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, thorn in pin vice/holder, IMS on metals, 50:50 water/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 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.

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 beaten gold with no decoration on the object bar for the two bosses on either end of the object. The entire surface of the object has suffered distortions and warping, including being bent around in on it-self. The two bosses on the object are in good condition and have some filigree decoration around the circumference. One of the bosses appears to have suffered damage in the form of flattening compared to the opposite boss. The filigree decoration around one boss has obvious damage in the form of flattening/compression visible.

On the smallest side of the object there is a tear on the sides of the hilt opening in the centre of the object. There is a tear shaped hole between the boss and the central hilt hole. There is a long tear from the opposite side of the central hilt hole, on the longest side, that runs as far as the bottom of the boss next too it. The tear drop hole appears to have been created by an object protruding through the gold surface from beneath.

There is discolouration on the interior gold, reddish/orange in nature and with some blacking visible across the surface. There is visible impressions of filigree on the top gold surface around the central hilt hole that would have been caused by filigree decorations on the handle. There are visible lines and marks on the gold surface, some may be the result of scratches from burial and/or use and some may be impressions of other pieces of the complete object.

Key Features:

- Polished surface.
- Two bosses.
- Bent and warped in on itself.
- Impressions of filigree around the hilt handle hole.

Analysis Undertaken:

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

Samples:

Sample 1 – Exterior soil.

Sample 2 – Interior soil.

Sample 3 – soil that was stored with the object.

References: