

K1197 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 26/02/2013

Conservation Finished: 27/02/2013

Conservator: Ciarán Lavelle

Time Taken: 3.5 Hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L). 28mm; (H). 4mm; (W). 16mm

Weight before: 1.63g

Weight after: 1.06g

X-ray: L63

Catalogue number: 354

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: K1197. SSH09, 1971, 1001, K13, 312(in a triangle), 4/8/09. X-RAY: L63.

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

Gold, sheet-metal, very misshapen (from removal). There is a fragment of filigree wire visible on one end.

Associated Objects: None known at present.

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

The object is a sheet of gold sheet, potentially a hilt plate; it is warped, twisted, crumpled together, deformed in on itself and covered in a heavy layer of loose and compact soil, obscuring the majority of the surface from view. The surface of the gold appears to be unadorned with a polished surface where visible which is also tarnished in appearance with nicks, scratches, tears and warping also visible.

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.

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 appears to be a gold sheet; a possible hilt plate, which has a polished metal finish. The object is crumpled/folded and warped in around itself. It has a polished unadorned surface. The surface of the object is covered in an un-uniformed layer of tarnish and some corrosion products. The gold is orange/red with blackened areas in appearance in places as well as having impressions, nicks and scratches visible on the surfaces as well what appears to be a rectangular/square impression making an imprint on one side of the object, may be the impression of a possible original parts of the object. There are dents on the metal, especially along the edges.

Key Features:

- Gold plate with a warped and misshapen surface.
- Incisions, cracking and flaking of gold surface visible on surface.

Analysis Undertaken:

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

Samples:

Sample 1 – Soil from the surface of the object.

References: