

K1220 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 26/02/2013

Conservation Finished: 27/02/2013

Conservator: Ciarán Lavelle

Time Taken: 2.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L.) 40.5mm; (W). 15mm; (Diam) 1.5mm

Weight before: 1.17g

Weight after: 1.13g

X-ray: L49

Catalogue number: 208

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: K1220, BA 1971, SSH09, 1001, M9, 29(in a triangle), 4/8/09, X-Ray: L.49.

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

A fragment of gold beaded filigree wire.

Associated Objects: None known at present.

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

The object is a fragment of gold filigree wire with a beaded design across the length. Both ends of the object appear to be break edges, both of which are broken across approximately 2 of the beads, with jagged/pointed ends. The object is covered in a moderate/heavy layer of loose and compact soil. The filigree has a partially straight section with a hooked section at the end. This shape may be either its originally intended shape, or damage suffered during/after it was disassembled.

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 is a fragment of gold filigree wire with a beaded design across the length. Both ends of the object appear to be break edges, both of which are broken across approximately 2 of the beads, with jagged/pointed ends. The object is covered in a moderate/heavy layer of loose and compact soil. The filigree has a partially straight section with a hooked section at the end. The object appears to be gold with tarnish/corrosion products visible on the surface; the gold is yellow/orange/red in appearance. On the straight section/arm there is a partial line of flattening visible, which travels across the bend onto the interior side of the hooked section. The surface appears to be covered in nicks, scratches. There is flattening visible on the exterior side of the hook section of the wire, which may indicate where the wire was attached to the surface of another object. The wire suffers from slight warping which may be its intentional shape or the result of damage it has suffered over time.

Key Features:

- A length of beaded gold filigree wire.
- Flattening of the metal visible damage on the hooked section of the object.
- Tarnish, corrosion products, nicks, scratches and physical damage visible.

Samples:

Not enough for a sample.

References: