K 1234 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 09/05/11
Conservation Finished: 09/05/11
Conservator: Deborah Magnoler
Time Taken: 2.5hrs
Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L)32 mm (W)18 mm (D)6 mm
Weight before: 2.69g
Weight after: 1.90g
Catalogue number: 261

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: SSH 09 1971 M9 1001 △142 27/7/09

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification
The fragment of a sword hilt plate, made of gold; composed of a, oval tip and a main body which splints into two part in the middle. The gold base is very thin (less than 1 mm); it features two rivet holes and a filigree walled circular cell (empty) in the tip area.

Associated Objects: Gold sword hilt fittings and parts

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

The object is covered in a thick layer of compacted soil an the gold surface is only partially visible. K1234 appears to be the fragment of hilt plate (possibly one of the ends), it appears to have been cut in antiquity and is now twisted and bent, having lost much of its original shape. The gold surface features superficial scratching, part of which may be recent, although very shallow. The gold surface also features a number of shorter, but deeper and wider marks, perhaps caused by use during the life of the object.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope
Purpose: Analysis
Aim: Total cleaning
Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, cotton swab, cocktail stick, thorn in pin vice/holder, IMS on metals

The granular soil on the exterior/interior surface 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.

The paper K number was adhered to the interior surface with Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) from the tube, applied with a fine paint brush.

A new storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was constructed to house 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:

Two rivet holes with round, frayed edges, as well as a round cell surrounded by a double wall of filigree, which may originally have housed a stone and is now empty.

XRF analysis of the object will be carried out at the Cardiff laboratories.

Samples:
1. Soil from exterior