

## K1238 Condition Report

**Conservation Started:** 31/01/2013

**Conservation Finished:** 31/01/2013

**Conservator:** Cymbeline Storey

**Time Taken:** 3.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** (L) 32mm (W) 11mm (D) 1mm

**Weight before:** 1.66g

**Weight after:** 1.17g

**X-ray:** L54

**Catalogue number:** 188

### **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 and after.

**Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes:** None

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

Four-sided gold panel/fitting with beaded and twisted filigree decoration on the front, a plain back, and four round fastening holes (one with a partial gold pin in situ).

The filigree design is three interlace areas (one of the same design on either end and a different one in the centre). The interlace in the centre is surrounded on all sides by a square formed of two beaded wires and four twisted wires. There is an additional beaded wire around the perimeter.

**Associated Objects:** Possibly K1189?

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

The panel is bent so that it is slightly concave when viewed from the front.

The front of the object is 95% covered with a thick later of soil that obscures almost all detail. Some tarnished beaded and twisted filigree wires can be seen through the soil.

The reverse is plain gold with patchy grey tarnish and some general abrasion. Small lips of metal can be seen around the fastening holes, suggesting that they were punched from the front. All of the holes are round. It is unclear if there are any remnants of a pin in any of the holes.

**Treatment:** Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

**Purpose:** Study

**Aim:** Total cleaning

**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 pin head required consolidation to prevent it from falling out with handling; Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) 30% w/v in acetone was applied with a glass micropipette. An additional blob of HMG brand Paraloid B72 from the tube was applied to the back of the pin head for extra support.

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:**

Soil removal revealed an unusual design (see 'Description' section above for details). The condition of the filigree is variable; some is in very good condition and some is severely worn down. One of the thick beaded filigree wires has partially detached from the base and is splayed upward. **This wire is very vulnerable; handle with care to avoid further damage or detachment.**

The back of the fitting has scratches and moderate orange to grey tarnish. The front has moderate tarnish over the entire surface. The colour of the tarnish is more orange on the right side of the panel and more grey in the centre and left sections of the panel.

#### **Key Features:**

- Gold fitting
- Beaded and twisted filigree
- Four fastening holes
- One pin head in situ

#### **Samples:**

1. soil