

K1241 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 01/02/2013

Conservation Finished: 01/02/2013

Conservator: Ciarán Lavelle

Time Taken: 2.5 Hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L). 11mm; (H). 4.5mm; (Diam. Hole) 2mm

Weight before: 1.42g

Weight after: 1.17g

Catalogue number: 638

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: K1241. X-Ray:L46

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification
Gold rivet boss, pierced for a rivet, with a double (thick and thin) beaded-wire collar, probably from a hilt-plate. No rivet remains. The hollow boss is of sheet-metal, the interior is filled with mud.

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

The object is a gold boss with a central hole at the top and filigree decorations around the base. It is covered in a moderate layer of loose and compact soil. The interior is partially filled with soil, this soil has black sediment throughout it, possible corrosion/tarnish products??

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:

After Treatment:

The object is intact and in good condition with a polished unadorned metal finish and with two layers of filigree decoration along the edge of the base, generally complete but for the insert/rivet for the central hole. The bottom filigree is thick and the upper filigree is thinner. The filigree has evidence of nick and scratches across their surface. The boss has a significant dent on the outer surface near the central hole as well as nicks and scratches across the surface.

The interior surface contained friable soil with black inclusions which could also be seen on the metal surface, this was sampled separately. The metal surface is orange-red in colour in places as well as with black tarnish (?) layers across the interior and exterior surfaces, especially on the filigree.

Key Features:

- Gold boss.
- One central hole.
- Scratches and indentations visible on the surface.
- Black sediment on the surface.

Analysis Undertaken:

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

Samples:

Sample 1 – Interior soil with black sediment.

Sample 2 – Soil from surface of the object.

References: