

K1249 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 20.07.11

Conservation Finished: 27.07.2011

Conservator: Deborah Magnoler

Time Taken: 4 hrs

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 13 mm (W) 7.2 mm (D) 5.3 mm (Th) 1.1

Weight before: 1.35g

Weight after: 1.26g

Catalogue number: 538

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 sf 334 1001, N13 5/8/09

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

A gold object representing a zoomorphic head, considered to be the detached head of the fish in K652. The manufacture of the piece is possibly cast, as part of the whole body of the fish, and then finished by chasing and incision; An incision made with a sharp, thin tool runs from between the lips of the fish to the back of the head. The head features two round eyes on the right and left. The underside shows that the object is formed by at least two sheets of gold folded onto each other, but this double layer does not extend to the entire area of the underside of the object; the back of the head (opposite side from the lips) is thinner and appears to be composed by only one layer. Most of the perimeter of the object is bordered by a jagged edge which suggests it was torn and broke off along a line of incision. Tool marks can be seen on the underside.

Associated Objects: K652 eagles/fish mount

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

The head is made of gold and has not suffered any tarnishing or recent damage. Physical damage is limited to a severe bending of the object along the centre and a loss of what is presumably an original flat shape. This bending has caused the metal between the lips to split. The jagged, torn edges around the perimeter can only be observed under the microscope (x20 and up). The underside is covered by a thick deposit of reddish, quartz-rich soil; the topside is almost entirely free from soil.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Display/ Analysis/ Storage/ Study

Aim: Total cleaning

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, cotton swab, cocktail stick, thorn in pin vice/holder, water/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 or water was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of IMS.

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.

Attached paper K number using HMG brand Paraloid B72 from the tube, applied with a cocktail stick.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Analysis undertaken

XRF analysis of the object was performed. See document 'K1249 XRF Report'.

Samples:

1. Soil from underside