

K1255 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 19/03/2013

Conservation Finished: 20/03/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 28mm (W) 14mm (D) 7mm

Weight before: 2.69g

Weight after: 2.42g

X-ray plate: L30/L52/L88/L90

Catalogue number: 28

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight or bulbs and Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights, 20-200x magnification. Taken before and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: SSH09, 1971, (1001), N10, 344 (in a triangle), 5/8/09

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

Partial gold pommel cap consisting of one shoulder and a double rivet casing on the end; the remainder is missing. There is beaded filigree decoration on the shoulder and casings. There are two rivet casings (tapered, barrel-shaped) decorated with vertical rows of beaded filigree wire.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

No rivets remain in situ; the fastening holes are filled with soil. A raised ridge can be seen on the reverse, suggesting that the fastening holes were punched through from the front.

Soil covers 50% of the front and 40% of the back of the object. There is general surface abrasion. A section of one beaded wire is bent back and is highly mobile; it appears to be partially broken and barely attached at this point. It is likely that this section could detach in the course of conservation.

On the back of the object there are a few patches of unknown dark residue and a few distinct, straight scratches that look intentional (possible maker's marks from manufacture).

There are signs of wear on the top half of the rivet casings.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study

Aim: Partial 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.

An area of metal inside the object was mobile and required consolidation to prevent detachment with handling or transportation; Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) 20% w/v in acetone was applied with a cocktail stick. See 'K1255 Treatment Details' for location of consolidated area.

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.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

A section of beaded wire protrudes from the end of the object; this is fragile and could catch gloves/packaging. Handle with care.

The small, mobile section of filigree wire described in the pre-conservation condition detached and was retained in sample vial 3 (housed with object). See 'K1255 Treatment Details' for original location of detached piece.

Soil removal revealed the filigree decoration, which is an interlace on the shoulder area (one thick beaded wire flanked on either side by a smaller beaded wire) and vertical rows of straight beaded wire on the rivet casings.

The distinct scratches on the interior are possibly maker's marks from the time of manufacture of the object. The patches of dark residue on the interior were left in situ for future study/analysis if desired. The remainder of soil from the interior/back was retained in a separate sample bag.

There are signs of wear to some of the filigree, particularly on parts of the shoulder and around the top of the rivet casings. There are distinct scratches/scrape marks adjacent to the short break edge.

Key Features:

- Partial gold pommel cap (shoulder and rivet casing only)
- Beaded filigree decoration

Samples:

1. soil – front
2. soil – back
3. detached segment of beaded filigree wire