

K1256 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 16/01/2013

Conservation Finished: 17/01/2013

Conservator: Ciarán Lavelle

Time Taken: 5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 25mm not including loose filigree/ 30mm including loose filigree; (W) 29mm (H) 8mm

Weight before: 4.17g

Weight after: 2.85g

Catalogue number: 444

(K1256b stamped gold foil renumbered to K1964 catalogue number 695)

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:

K1256. SSH09, 1001, N10, 1971, 345 (in a triangle/cut), 5/8/09.

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

Gold sheet curved in the middle. Decorative filigree spiral design on the top.

Associated Objects: None known at present.

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

The object is a sheet of gold with a decorative surface, with filigree spiral decoration visible. The sheet is bent into a v shape in the centre with two equal length arms on either side. The arms have been bent in on themselves becoming warped and damaged. There is a loose fragment of filigree at the end of one arm which is pointing away from the object. The loose filigree fragment is in danger of becoming damage further.

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, water on garnets, 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, a loose fragment of filigree on one end of the object, required consolidation; Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) 10% w/v in acetone was applied with a glass micropipette.

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:

During Treatment:

During the excavation of the interior soil a gold foil was found (now renumbered as K1964, weighing <0.01g), this was photographed and placed in a glass vial. A plant seed was uncovered in the soil close to the gold foil; it was placed in a glass vial and stored with the object.

After Treatment:

The object appears to be a single sheet of gold which has been bent with a gentle curve at the centre with two equal sized arms on either side of the centre, creating a 'V' shape. The object has suffered damage and warping which has resulted in the arms being pushed and bent width-wise in on it-self. The decorative surface of the object is separated into 4 sections, with filigree spirals in each section.

There is a filigree border running along the length of the object and partially on one arm width-wise. On this arm the filigree border over across half of the width but is then bent at an approximate 90% angle and pointing away from the object, this leaves this loose section of filigree at danger to catching and suffering further damage. For this reason and the fact it is loose I applied paraloid B72 to provide some extra strength. On the opposite arm the filigree border on the arm is not present.

There are two rivet holes at the end of each arm, only one is fully intact, the other three have been damaged and are open on one side. The warping of the object has resulted in the overlying filigree spirals to come away from the gold sheet and sit up at varying angles, but remain attached to fully attached filigree.

The filigree on the top of the object shows signs of wear, maybe as a result of use. Some impression damage and wear is visible across the rest of the object. A specific line impression is visible across the top of two spirals on one arm, near a damaged rivet. There are a number of holes visible beside and beneath the spirals on the gold sheet.

13/10/2015- K. Fuller

Boxed with K687

Key Features:

- Curved sheet of gold with spiral filigree decoration.
- Damage/warping visible on the gold sheet.
- Wear and damage visible on the filigree, especially on the top.
- Gold foil for garnets found within the interior soil.
- A plant seed was found within the interior soil.

Analysis Undertaken:

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

Samples:

Sample 1 – Interior soil.

Sample 2 – Exterior soil.

Sample 3 – Plant seed uncovered in the interior soil, near the gold foil.

Sample 4 – Gold foil found in the interior soil (now K1964, <0.01g)

References: