

K 1258 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 11/01/2013

Conservation Finished: 14/01/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 6 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 62mm (W) 21mm (H) 19mm (Th. edge) 1mm

Weight before: 8.67g

Weight after: 8.08g

X-ray: L35

Catalogue number: 114

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

Partial gold hilt collar with fine, twisted filigree in a herringbone pattern on the exterior. The top and bottom borders (i.e., the long edges) are finished and feature a single thicker twisted filigree wire. Both short ends are breaks.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The collar is bent and deformed and is now somewhat flat. The front has fine twisted filigree decoration and the reverse is plain gold. On the reverse two soldered seams can be seen as well as some raised bumps corresponding to the filigree on the front. There is patchy orange tarnish on the back.

The break edges (short edges) are fairly straight and might have been cut. There are loose wires on both ends that will probably require support with an adhesive to prevent breakage with handling by snagging gloves or packaging.

90% of the front and 10% of the back are covered with thick deposits of soil that obscure much surface detail. A small amount of plant matter can be seen in the soil.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study

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.

Loose, protruding wires on both break edges required consolidation to prevent breakage through handling; HMG brand Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) from the tube was applied with a cocktail stick.

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:

The larger twisted filigree wire on the border has separated from the body of the object in one place with a gap seen in this area between the wire and the body of the strip.

The filigree wires are fine (~0.3mm thick), quite regular, and arranged in a herringbone pattern. They are generally in good condition but have some fine surface abrasions. Seams can be seen on some of the wires. There is a distinct, deep dent/gash in the centre of the object. It is stable.

There are fine cracks in the gold on the back of the collar, though they appear to be stable and not in need of consolidation or support at this time. There are a few patches of light orange tarnish on the back as well as raised impressions from the filigree wires on the front.

The loose wires on both break edges have been supported and protected by blobs of Paraloid B72, the goal being to reduce the chance of breakage through handling as the wires might catch gloves or packaging.

Key Features:

- Partial gold hilt collar with fine twisted filigree in herringbone pattern
- Two soldered seams on reverse

Samples:

1. soil