

K1273 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 14/03/13

Conservation Finished: 14/03/13

Conservator: Ciarán Lavelle

Time Taken: 2 Hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 24mm (W) 9mm (H) 6mm

Weight before: 1.01g

Weight after: 0.73g

Catalogue number: 479

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:

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

Small and thin eye shaped filigree panel.

Associated Objects:

None known at present.

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

The object is a small thin gold panel with a filigree panel on the top. The surface is covered in a moderate layer of loose and compact soil obscuring the surface and the condition of the surface. The panel is warped slightly with one side pointing upwards, and a gentle bulge/curve in the centre.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Display / Study / Analysis

Aim: Total cleaning (as far as possible) / 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.

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:

The object is a small thin gold panel with a filigree panel on the top. The panel is shaped like an eye with two squared edges; the top edge is more curved than the bottom edge. The back of the bottom edge has a slight lip that extends from the base edge outward at the reverse of the object. The front panel lines can be seen on the back surface. The panel is warped, with a bulge in the centre and a severely warped left side (as you look on the object), where the edge points upwards and a pronounced bend. The filigree is a combination of herringbone surrounded by beaded wire and spiral beaded filigree. The panel is warped slightly with one side pointing upwards, and a gentle bulge/curve in the centre. There are three rivet holes, one in the centre at the top of the panel and one at each corner. Both rivet holes at the corners are damaged, one is nearly gone and the other is open at one end. The filigree is damaged in appearance with incisions, nicks and scratches across the surface and general flattening and wear damage visible. There is pronounced damage to the filigree on the edge on the base and on filigree near the bend, this may be a result of the panel being ripped off its original surface and/or during burial.

The gold surface on the reverse is polished and unadorned in appearance. Soil is still visible on the surface in hard to clean areas on surface, especially around the bent/warped areas which were hard to reach. Due to time/equipment constraints this excess soil could not be removed without causing damage to the surface so it was left in situ. The gold is tarnished in appearance (yellow/orange/red and black), especially on the front surface, with nicks, scratches, dents, and general wear and tear visible on the surface. There is some insoluble crustations and hard to remove soil/tarnish on the gold surfaces.

Key Features:

- Small eye shaped gold panel with filigree decoration.
- 3 rivet holes.
- Flattened/damaged areas visible on the surface.

Analysis Undertaken:

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

Samples:

Sample 1 – Soil From the surface.

References: