

K1276 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 12/01/2013

Conservation Finished: 21/01/2013

Conservator: Natalie Harding

Time Taken: 3hours 20mins

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 50.5mm (H) 2mm (Th) 1.5mm

Weight before: 2.68g

Weight after: 2.59g

X-ray: L136

Catalogue number: 154

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:

SSH09, 1971, 1001, N12, 865(in triangle), 5/8/09

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

Length of gold wire edging made up of herringbone beaded wire with a plain gold central wire.

The piece is backed or mounted on a sheet strip of gold.

Distorted and curved into a hook shape.

Associated Objects: n/a

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

Soil fills all crevasses, obscuring some detail.

The object is distorted and curved into a hook shape. There may be cracks or splits in the wire at the bend in the middle of the wire.

Beaded herringbone in the centre appears to be detached from the wire body and is sticking out.

One end of the wire edging looks as if it has torn, the other end looks as if it has been cut as this is a clean looking edge at an angle.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study / Analysis

Aim: Total cleaning

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 covering all the object 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.

No corrosion products were found.

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:

In the centre of the gold strip the overlap of two gold strips can be seen. Under the microscope the score lines possibly from manufacture can be seen. It appears that this overlap may be a historical repair as underneath the overlap a split in the gold strip can be seen. Perhaps this was a repair to reinforce the breakage.

The beaded wires that form the herringbone pattern are in fact constructed of two beaded wires twisted together.

The plain wire through the centre of the herringbone pattern appears to be a beaded wire that has been flattened on one side to produce a plain flat surface. At one point in the centre this flattened wire has been lifted from the surface and is kinked up and pointing out of the surface, although this is still attached to the object.

Key Features:

- Twisted beaded wire to form herringbone pattern.
- Possible historic repair with overlapped sheet gold join.
- Score lines possible from manufacture.
- Single row of beaded wire in the centre of the herringbone pattern.

Analysis Undertaken: n/a

Samples:

1. Soil sample from all over the piece.

References: n/a