

K1313 Condition Report

UPDATE Lizzie Miller 27.07.15 – Now boxed with K1, K127, K463, K643, K681, K712, K5005

Looks like it may possibly have once joined with K681, however now too distorted to be rejoined

Conservation Started: 14/02/2013

Conservation Finished: 15/02/2013

Conservator: Natalie Harding

Time Taken: 5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) incomplete 112mm (W) 14.5mm (Th) 3mm,

Weight before: 23.27g

Weight after: 21.41g

Catalogue number: 547

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: n/a

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

Gold and garnet, cloisonné strip mount of sheet-metal construction, with an angled end (less than 45°). It is incomplete, having been cut at its opposite end. It is from a suite of mounts, some only fragments, of related construction and decoration (K1/K127/K270/K463/K643/K681/K712/K843/K1313). It was probably originally flat, but is now twisted and damaged, especially at the cut end, where the cell-work has been stripped away (traces of the gold solder used in the manufacture are visible in the absence of the cloisons). In other parts of the remaining design, garnets are unseated, sunken, or missing completely. The geometric cloisonné includes mushroom, square and stepped shapes, and is the same as that of the rest of the suite. The flat red garnets are probably backed by stamped gold foils [but mud obscures]. Multiple rivet holes are visible on the reverse [but uncleaned, so exact number uncertain]. The two long edges have a border of thick beaded wire (Th. 1mm), and a flanged base that perhaps indicates the mount was set on a raised (?embossed) surface. The angled end by contrast is plain. The beaded wire and flanged edge have been cut in places by a bladed implement, perhaps that used in the dismantling process. It may be a book-cover or reliquary mount. Chris Fern.

Associated Objects: Possibly from a suite of mounts, some only fragments, of related construction and decoration (K1/K127/K270/K463/K643/K681/K712/K843/K1313).

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

Appears to be in good general condition although damaged at one end. At this damaged end there is approximately 30mm of decoration missing and the sub straight gold sheet has been flattened out to about 18mm width. Most of the garnets appear to have sunk down into their cells. All cells filled with soil and soil obscures all detail. The beaded border edges are flattened in areas.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study / Analysis

Aim: Total cleaning – as much as possible.

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 and 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:

All garnets seem secure; some have sunk down in to their individual cells. The damaged section missing the decoration has been flattened out and linear compression marks and scratches can be seen at either sides.

A large (5mm x 2mm diameter) hole has been torn in the sheet at this damaged end. The remains of the gold cell outlines can be seen on the gold sheet.

At the point where the garnet cell walls begin, a green substance mixed with soil can be seen. This may possibly be copper alloy corrosion product, suggesting the presence of an underlying plate beneath the garnets to act as a support layer?

On the reverse of the undamaged end there are three rivet or pin holes. These are soil filled and one has been torn. These are sized approximately between 1mm – 3mm diameter. Here there are more linear diagonal scratch marks.

Key Features:

- Cross and diamond pattern created with the garnets.
- Green substance found at the point where the garnet cell walls begin.
- Three rivet or pin holes on the reverse.
- The remains of the gold cell outlines can be seen on the damaged gold sheet.

Analysis Undertaken: n/a

Samples:

1. Soil – all over
2. Garnet fragments.

References: Chris Fern's notes.