

K1322 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 17/01/2013

Conservation Finished: 17/01/2013

Conservator: Ciarán Lavelle

Time Taken: 2.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 33mm (H) 5.5mm (Th. edge) 1mm

Weight before: 1.14g

Weight after: 1.10g

X-ray: L136

Catalogue number: 152

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:

K1322. 1 (in a yellow circle).

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

Thin and curved strip of gold with filigree herringbone decoration 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 thin strip of gold with a filigree decorated surface on top and an unadorned surface beneath. The filigree surface is covered in a medium layer of loose and compact soil; full degree of filigree decoration is obscured. One end of the object appears to be a break edge; the opposite side has two rivet holes present on a thin flattened area at the end of the decorated surface.

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, 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 long thin strip of gold sheeting with a beaded and herringbone filigree decoration travelling length ways along the object. The filigree is in two sections with a beaded border surrounding it.

There is a break edge at one end of the object, at which there is a tear visible at one side. This tear is in the gold sheet and includes the filigree beaded border and runs approximately 6mm into the body of the object. At the opposite end of the object there are two rivet holes on a flattened area of the sheet, with curved edges. This flattened edge appears to be a join where either a more decorative piece may have been placed on top next to the decorated surface and held in place by rivets, or slotted into a groove on another object.

The gold on the underside is not decorative and both sides of the object appear to be tarnished in appearance with brown/red/orange/black/grey hues visible. The filigree nearest the two rivet holes appears to be heavily damaged, with impressions and wear visible in a localised area. This may have been the result of impact damage or caused by its removal from the original underlying later. Some wear is visible on other areas on the filigree surface.

Key Features:

- Long thin strip of gold sheet.
- Herringbone filigree surface decoration with filigree borders.
- Two rivet holes on one side of the object with a possible join edge.
- Break edge visible on side opposite to the rivet holes.

Samples:

Sample 1 – Soil from the object.

References: