

K1346 Condition Report

FRAGILE

Conservation Started: 10/05/2013

Conservation Finished: 10/05/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 1.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 12mm (W) 11.5mm (D) 3mm (Th.) 1mm

Weight before: 0.66g

Weight after: 0.59g

Catalogue number: 681

Digital photography:

Taken with a Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights, 20-200x 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

Gold fragment (all edges breaks) with beaded filigree decoration on the front. The back is plain with one soldered seam. The filigree decorative scheme is an interlace formed of thicker beaded wires flanked on either side by thinner beaded wires.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The fragment is largely flat but one corner is bent upward slightly. Unremarkable soil covers ~90% of the front; only the tops of the filigree wires can be seen. All edges are old-looking breaks. The back is ~20% covered with unremarkable soil. The surface has moderate tarnish (probably from burial), a few old-looking scratches, and one soldered seam is visible.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study

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 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.

A small piece of gold detached from a break edge. It was retained in sample vial 2.

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:

Soil removal revealed a heavily tarnished (probably from burial) surface. The darkest areas are on the front flay gold areas (i.e., between the filigree wires). There is a hole in the centre of the object and wear to the high points of some of the filigree wires. **The edges are jagged breaks and very fragile; handle with care.**

The back has several old-looking scratches and dents and one soldered seam. The surface has patchy dark discolouration (probably from burial).

Key Features:

- Gold fragment with beaded filigree interlace decoration on front
- Darker surface discolouration than is typically seen on gold hoard objects
- Soldered seam on back

Samples:

1. soil
2. small gold fragment from break edge