

K136 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 11.03.13

Conservation Finished: 11.03.13

Conservator: Natalie Harding

Time Taken: 2 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 38mm (W) 18mm (Th) crystal boss 3mm

Weight before: 2.24g

Weight after: 2.19g

Catalogue number: 77

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 filigree decorated curved triangular shaped piece. Appears this could be a fitting or mount of some type.

The central filigree decoration is made up of 'S' shaped beaded wire, with outer borders of twisted wire and a single line of beaded wire. The reverse is plain.

A clouded clear cabochon stone is bezel set and mounted in the centre. It appears the back of the stone is backed with a silver coloured foil, or silver paste. The stone diameter = 7mm.

Associated Objects: n/a

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

The piece as a whole is stable and in very good condition.

Some distortion and warping throughout the lower area of the sheet.

Granular soil covers the front; the reverse has a light covering of soil.

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, water on garnets, cotton wool swabs, cocktail stick, Paraloid B72.

The granular soil all over 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 apparent 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:

The shape of this piece suggests that it may be the decorative part of a pommel cap.

Soil removal and cleaning revealed that the top curved apex of the piece is worn. Here the gold has been smoothed over and appears worn through possible use.

The filigree pattern is made up of alternate facing 'S' scrolls of beaded wire as an outer line border following the contour of the shape of the piece. All filigree components are stable, intact and present.

The central cabochon stone is bordered by twisted beaded and single wire bead edging. To either side of the stone sits a single tear-drop shape that has been pressed or hammered into the gold sheet. These are bordered with single beaded wires to define their outline. It appears these tears would have been pressed from the back for more height and definition; however they are now flattened and somewhat disfigured and wrinkled. There is a small hole (less than 1mm) on the left tear-drop.

The reverse shows the impressions of the front decorations.

In the centre of the gold sheet on the reverse, there appears to be a small hole filled with soil. This is in line with the cabochon stone on the front and has been left with the soil filling.

Patches of red, orange coloured staining can be seen mostly on the reverse and in the recesses on the front. This may be iron staining.

Beneath the cabochon stone it appears that there is a layer of silver foil, or a substance that creates a reflection to enhance the clear white stone.

Key Features:

- Bezel set cabochon central clear white stone with a foil backing, possibly silver or another substance.
- Alternate facing 'S' scroll filigree.
- Triangular curved shape suggests this may be the decorative part of a pommel cap.
- Tear-drop shaped decoration on either side of the stone.

Analysis Undertaken: n/a

Samples:

1. Soil – all over.

References: n/a