

K1375 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 01/02/2013

Conservation Finished: 01/02/2013

Conservator: Ciarán Lavelle

Time Taken: 2.5 Hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L). 21mm; (Th. sheet) <0.5mm; (Diam.). boss 7mm

Weight before: 1.37g

Weight after: 0.84g

Catalogue number: 268

X-ray: L44

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: K1375. BA1971, SSH09, 1001, M7, 6/8/09, EVSC, 378 (in a triangle/object number). X-Ray:L44.

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification
Fragment from the tip of a flanged hilt-plate, edged with beaded wire, with at least one rivet hole with remains of a beaded-wire collar for a boss.

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

The object is a compressed fragment of gold that is covered in a moderate layer of loose and compact soil. The interior surface appears to have two lengths of gold filigree but are obscured as they are encased in soil. The object may have been originally flat with filigree decoration on top and a filigree hole. The gold sheet is bent over itself and has visible signs of tears and cracks on the surface. There are possible break edges on all sides as the sheet does not appear to be complete.

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:

After Treatment:

The Object appears to have been originally flat with a polished unadorned metal finish on both sides with two remaining filigree decorations on the decorated surface, which is now the interior due to the deformation of the sheet. One rivet hole is visible but is not complete, as it has a break edge nearest the edge of the plate. The edges of the plate appears to be all break edges as the object has suffered extensive damage and is probably not a complete piece. The gold is orange-red in appearance in places, has areas of black tarnishing, especially around the filigree as well as having pockmarks, indentations nicks and scratches visible on the surfaces.

Key Features:

- Gold plate with a warped and misshapen surface.
- One rivet hole.
- Scratches and indentations visible on the surface.

Analysis Undertaken:

XRF analysis of the object was performed. See document 'XXXX XRF Report'.

Samples:

Sample 1 – Soil from surface of the object.

References: