

## K142 Condition Report

**Conservation Started:** 25/02/2013

**Conservation Finished:** 01/03/2013

**Conservator:** Ciarán Lavelle

**Time Taken:** 3.5 Hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** (L) 26mm; (W) 6mm; (Th) 1mm

**Weight before:** 1.90g

**Weight after:** 1.63g

**Weight with K927:** 2.71g

**X-ray:** L89, L136

**Catalogue number:** 138

### 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:** K142, 24/7/09, (Unstrat).

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

Thin gold sheet-metal panel with parallel filigree decoration.

**Associated Objects:** K927

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

The object is a small rectangular sheet/panel of gold with a filigree upper surface, unadorned reverse surface, and with a sharply curved body. The object is covered in a moderate/heavy layer of loose and compact soil, obscuring the majority of the surface from view. The object has what appears to be three defined edges and one break-edge, which is jagged with loose filigree. There also appears to be a raised area on the back that may be the remains of a join.

**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:**

#### **During Treatment:**

There was a fragment of CuA corrosion products/metal panel on top of the filigree panel, this was removed and placed in plastic sample tube.

#### **After Treatment:**

The object is a small rectangular sheet/panel of gold with a filigree upper surface, unadorned reverse surface, and with a pronounced curved body. The object has three defined edges on the two long sides and on one narrow end, where as the other narrow end is a break-edge. The front surface of the object has a parallel filigree pattern, 8 strips of filigree in the herringbone style, and one of the beaded wire filigree style, possibly a border. One end has a defined edge but the other side is a break-edge with wire filigree extending beyond the remaining gold sheet, the filigree is also warped, as they all seem to be bent to one side (to the right), with some over-lapping. The gold sheet at this jagged edge is also slightly twisted/warped. There is some severe wear/flattening damage to the surface of the filigree in places, especially to the filigree in the centre and on the outer herringbone filigree. This may be the result of the panels removal from its original surface/position. The long edge with the damaged herringbone filigree is highly damaged with dents and tears along the edge and to the filigree on the edge. The filigree shows some evidence of general wear and tear damage. There are marks on the reverse of the object which may have been made by a knife or equivalent tool to remove the panel from its original position and this may have resulted in the damage on this edge.

The surface of the object is covered in an un-uniformed layer of tarnish and some corrosion products. The gold is orange/red with blackened areas in appearance in places as well as having nicks and scratches visible on the surfaces. The corrosion products and tarnish were left insitu as they do not obscure any decorative or informative surfaces and removal may result in further damage to the surface.

#### **Key Features:**

- Rectangular gold plate with a parallel filigree decorated surface.
- Damaged, jagged, warped, twisted damaged edge with loose filigree.
- Possible tool marks on reverse surface.

#### **Samples:**

Sample 1 – Soil from the surface of the object.

Sample 2 – Fragment of a CuA plate/corrosion product.

#### **References:**