

## K1430 gold and silver-alloy fragment with beaded wire filigree

### Condition Report

**Conservation Started:** 7.3.2013

**Conservation Finished:** 8.3.2013

**Conservator:** Julia Leunge

**Time Taken:** 6 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** (L) 18.5 mm (W) 7.5 mm (D) 6 mm

**Weight before:** 2.04 g

**Weight after:** 1.91 g

**X-ray plate:** L44

**Catalogue number:** 58

#### **Digital photography:**

Taken with a Canon EOS 100D digital camera, under overhead lights, and a Keyence VH-Z20R Digital Microscope (with analyses capture software) and fibre optic lights, 7-75x magnification. Taken before and after.

#### **Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes:**

**Description:** Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 20x magnification

Ox-hide shaped fragment with gold, domed, apparently layered, backing and gold and silver-alloy (?) filigree. One part of the decoration has bent backward and is covering underlying decoration.

The visible gold (?) filigree consists of triple-strand beaded wire, shaped into a double eight. The decoration is bordered by strands of beaded wire. Everything is placed onto a gold backing. Some of the underlying filigree, also made of beaded wire, seems to be silver-alloy.

On one side of the object another five strands of beaded wire are present.

#### **Associated Objects:**

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**Pre-Conservation Condition:** Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 20x magnification.

The filigree seems to be quite brittle. It is covered by a dark grey corrosion product. Some of the upper decoration's tarnished surface has been scratched, showing gold underneath. The filigree has deformed in several places. The object's edges are jagged and deformed, especially on both ends.

The gold backing shows some delamination (?)

The object is filled with granular soil. Soil is also adhering to the filigree.

**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, cotton wool swabs, cocktail stick, Paraloid B72

The granular soil on the front and 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.

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.

**12/08/2015 - K. Fuller**

Boxed with K1466 as associated object- two fragments

**Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:**

Most of the soil could be removed from inside the object. However, it could not be cleaned out entirely without deforming the upper filigree.

Determination of the material was difficult, the alloy could be consisting of gold with a high percentage of silver, causing the tarnishing, or the tarnishing could have been deposited by adjacent silver-alloy filigree.

After opening the box with the object again, the top decoration had come off the underlying part. Additional photos were taken and a new storage container was made.

**Key Features:**

Ox-hide shaped. Triple-strand filigree shaped into a double eight. Gold backing, tarnished decoration.

**Analysis Undertaken:**

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**Samples:**

1: Soil from the front, back, sides and inside of the object.

**References:**

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