

## K143 Condition Report

**Conservation Started:** 13/03/2013

**Conservation Finished:** 13/03/2013

**Conservator:** Natalie Harding

**Time Taken:** 1hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** Distorted (L) 22mm (W) 19mm (Th) <0.5mm

**Weight before:** 1.73g

**Weight after:** 1.39g

**Catalogue numbers:** 252

### **Digital photography:**

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight bulbs and Photomicrographs taken using Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights, 20-200x magnification.

**Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes:** n/a

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

Possible end part of a gold sheet hilt plate with one bezel set red/pink coloured cabochon stone, possibly a garnet.

The piece appears torn on all sides.

Two holes in the gold sheet just below the stone.

**Associated Objects:** n/a

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

The piece is quite damaged; torn and crumpled on all edges and warped throughout. The garnet appears in good condition and held securely in its setting. Compact, hard granular soil lightly covers the surface, more is accumulated in the recesses and folds.

**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 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.

**Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:**

The piece remains structurally stable.

It appears that this piece may have had a folded flange, as the edges are torn and ripped along what looks like a seam.

The garnet stone is a rounded conical shape that sits low in the setting – it may have sunk inwards. The tip of the stone is flattened and has been cleaved down one side.

The stone is set with a strip of gold, the join visible on one side. The setting is encircled by three rows of beaded wire, two narrow outer wires and one larger beaded wire in the centre.

On the gold sheet below the setting are two punched rivet/pin holes. These have been punched from the reverse and there is a circular shadow impression surrounding these two holes on the front, possibly from bosses. The holes are approximately 1.5mm in diameter; the stone is approximately 3mm in diameter.

The reverse hole of the garnet is filled with soil, this has been left in situ as this might be holding in the stone.

**Key Features:**

- Bezel set garnet.
- Two rivet/pin holes with possible boss shadows.

**Samples:**

1. Soil – all over.