K1474 Condition Report

Fragile; handle with care

Conservation Started: 22/03/2013
Conservation Finished: 22/03/2013
Conservator: Cymbeline Storey
Time Taken: 2.5 hours
Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 14mm (W) 8mm (D) 7mm
Weight before: 0.61g
Weight after: 0.60g
Catalogue number: 256

Digital photography:
Taken with a Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights, 20-200x magnification. Taken before and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: None

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

Gold sheet (most likely a partial gold hilt plate) with a bevelled edge and one round, raised setting containing a cabochon garnet. There are two beaded filigree wires around the base of the setting; one thicker (at the bottom) and one thinner (immediately above the thicker wire).

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The gold has some general surface abrasion and a small amount of soil. The object is bent so that the plain gold sheet covers most of the garnet. The garnet can only be seen at an oblique angle. The fragment is torn and distorted.

There is a hole in the back of the setting that contains a dark, resinous-looking material of unknown composition but similar in appearance to a residue seen in several bosses.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope
Purpose: Study
Aim: Total cleaning
Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, thorn in pin vice/holder, IMS on metals, 50:50 water/IMS on metals, 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.

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 was included to help lift the object from the foam.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

The condition of the object is the same as pre-conservation except that the small amount of soil has been removed.

It is unclear if there is a foil behind the garnet; it looks as if there might be. It is difficult to view the garnet because the gold sheet is bent over the setting, only allowing the setting to be viewed at an oblique angle.

The gold sheet is thin and flexes when touched; handle with care.

The resinous substance visible on the reverse looks similar to residue seen inside several bosses in the hoard. Soil was removed from this area but the residue was left in situ for future study/analysis. It could be sampled if required.

Key Features:

- Gold sheet (probably a partial gold hilt plate) with a bevelled edge
- One round, raised setting containing a cabochon garnet and surrounded by two beaded filigree wires
- Dark, resinous substance in hole at back of setting – possible organic/paste?

Samples:
None

** UPDATE 29.09.15 Lizzie Miller – Re. possible relationship between K1474 K33 & K477:
K1474 and K33 are both end fragments of a gold hilt plate and each have a red cabochon garnet (sunken) in a plain bezel with a (filigree) collar of two beaded wires. They could be from the same hilt plate - both have the same sized garnet/beaded wire surround (6.5mm diameter) and the garnets appear to be similar in appearance (from what can be seen of K1474 due to distortion). Both have the same sized flanges measuring approx. 1.5mm.

On first inspection K477 could possibly be the bridging part between K1474 and K33, however there are no joins to prove this. The gold of all 3 fragments is similar in appearance and thickness (approx. 0.2mm), with a dulled yellowy-gold surface. I've taken various measurements which have brought doubt to the relationship. One thing that brings uncertainty to K477's relationship is the rivet holes: on K33 there is only a 0.4mm(approx.) gap between the edge of the garnet beading and the rivet hole. If K1474 were joined to K477 there would be a much larger (approx. 2.5mm) gap between K1474's beaded garnet edge and the rivet holes of K477.

Another difference is the distance between each of the ends and the central hollow. The addition of K33 to K477 would give at least a 30.9mm distance between the far edge of K33 and the start of the hollow in the centre of the hilt plate. The distance from the far edge of K1474 to the start of the hollow on the other side would be 23.1mm. There is the possibility that K1474 could sit further away from K477 (with a bridging fragment in between) to make the distance more similar to that of the other side, however this would also in turn increase further the distance between K1474 and the rivet holes.

It was concluded that K477 is not associated with K33 & K1474. K33 & K1474 are now boxed together