K148 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 12/09/2011
Conservation Finished: 22/09/2011
Conservator: Graeme McArthur
Time Taken: 5 hours
Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 25mm (W) 6.5mm (Th) 2mm
Weight before: 1.24g
Weight after: 1.06g
Catalogue number: 524

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: 24/7/09 (unstrat)

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

Gold strip with row of inlaid garnets flush with the front of the object. Narrows to a point at each end and the strip curves back towards each end. On back the garnet cells appear to protrude outwards from the strip of gold.

Associated Objects:

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

All garnets appear to be present however there is a large dent on the front of the object at one end. Front has very little soil present, the back is more encrusted hiding the construction of the object.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope
Purpose: ~~Display~~/ Analysis / Study
Aim: Total cleaning
Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, cotton swab, cocktail stick, thorn in pin vice/holder, water on garnets, water on metals.

The granular soil on the exterior/interior surface was mechanically removed or reduced where possible using a fine thorn tip secured in a pin vice and a small pure bristle brush. Water was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of water.

The paper K number was adhered to the interior surface with HMG brand Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) from the tube, applied with a fine paint brush.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

The garnets all seem stable. There are very few inclusions visible with only some needle inclusions visible in the central garnet. A gold foil is not visible behind the central garnet.

The cells for the garnets have been formed at the back of the object in order to allow the garnets to be flush with the surface. This appears to have been done by bending the gold back to form the outside wall of the cells and then soldering gold foil to the top. The interior walls could then be soldered in place.

The gold foil at the back is very thin and torn in numerous places rendering it very fragile.

One of the end garnets has a crack through the centre.

Analysis undertaken
XRF analysis of the object was performed. See document 'KXXX XRF Report'.

Samples:

1. Soil from front
2. Soil from back ADDED TO SAMPLE 1