

CAT No. 232 Hilt Ring
K1498 + K1840 + K2156 (K1481b-d)
Condition Report

Conservation Started: 10/11/2015

Conservation Finished: 18/11/2015

Conservator: Kayleigh Fuller

Time Taken: 2 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: 20.3mm (L-Stretched) x 14.8 (W-Squashed) x 1.5mm (Thickness)

Weight before: K1498 -0.07g, K1840- 0.06g, K1481b-0.26g K1481c-0.17g K1481d-0.20g

Weight after: n/a

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: K1498, Beaded Wire, X-Ray: L.64.

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

Short fragments of gilded silver-alloy or a low carat gold ribbed/beaded filigree wire.

Associated Objects: None known at present.

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

K1498 The object is a short fragment of gilded silver-alloy or a low carat gold filigree wire with a beaded/ribbed design across the length, made up of only 4 beaded/ribbed segments. Both ends of the object appear to be break edges, both of which are broken between the ribs/beads. The object is covered in a light layer of loose and compact soil. There is corrosion and tarnish visible on the surface. On one side there is a continuous line of flattening visible, with some flaking of the gold surface visible.

K1481b-d (K2156)- K1481b: The fragment is curved & flat on one side. The flat side has a small deposit of soil. Some of the gilding is missing, and the surface has moderate tarnish (probably from burial). One of the break edges looks recent.

K1481c: Straight fragment; flattened on one side. The surface has tarnish (probably from burial) and a little soil. Some of the gilding is missing. Both break edges look old.

K1481d: Curved fragment, slightly flattened on one side. The surface has tarnish (probably from burial) and a little soil. Both break edges might be recent. There are a few patches of green corrosion product on the surface.

K1840- Small, silver beaded wire fragment.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Display / Study / Analysis

Aim: Cleaning/ Reassembly

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.

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The fragments were assembled together using 30% W/V Paraloid B72 in Acetone. The object is now semi-circular and larger as a whole.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

The object is a short fragment of gilded silver-alloy or a low carat gold wire with a beaded/ribbed design across the length, made up of only 4 beaded/ribbed segments. Both ends of the object appear to be break edges, both of which are broken between the ribs/beads. The object appears to be silver alloy; there is silver tarnish, corrosion products and possible copper and gold gilt visible on the surface. On one side there is a continuous line of flattening visible, with some flaking of the gold surface visible. The surface appears to be covered in nicks, scratches and what appears to be pitting on the surface. The wire is flattened on one area which may indicate where the wire was attached to the surface of another object. The object required minimal interventive conservation, removal of excess soil.

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There are definitely areas of flattening and damage to the outside of the ring.

Key Features:

- Ribbed/beaded gilded silver-alloy or a low carat gold filigree wire.
- Flattening of the metal visible damage on one side.

- Tarnish and corrosion products visible.

Analysis Undertaken:

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

Samples:

Not enough for a viable sample.

References: