

K1536 Condition Report

Date: 07/02/2012

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 3 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 21mm (H. boss) 5.5mm (Diam.) 13mm (Th. shank) 1.5mm

Weight: 2.65g

Catalogue number: 621

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.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: None

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

Object is a gold boss with a domed head and three beaded gold filigree rings around the base that are stacked one on top of the other. The beaded wires vary in thickness, with the thickest at the base of the dome and the thinnest toward the top of the dome. The domed head is plain gold. The interior is concave and contains black residue. The gold pin soldered to the interior of the boss is blunt-ended with a faceted/hammered shaft (8 faces). It is slightly wider near the soldered end. There is a raised lip of gold around the tip of the pin.

Associated Objects: K1686 (TBC)

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

Exterior:

There are light soil deposits on the outer surface, mainly around the beaded wires. There is an overall thin, orange-brown film of soil covering the dome and the beaded wires, giving the object a dull rather than shiny finish. There are patches of dark tarnish on the dome.

The dome has a dent over ~25% of its surface. On this dent there are scratches (possibly recent, from excavation) that run from the dome onto the filigree wires around the base. The wires in this area are severely scratched and somewhat flattened.

The three beaded wires are intact and secure. The wires are not joined into intact rings, but the ends meet closely. The largest wire has a <1mm gap that may represent an area of loss.

Interior:

The interior has a few specks of soil and a large amount of flaky, black residue of unknown composition. Visible gold is shiny and has patches of orange, red, and dark tarnish. There is one light, recent-looking scratch. The soldered sheet of gold around the pin is partially detached from the interior surface, but it is stable.

Pin:

The pin is tarnished, bent, and has some scratches and dents on the shaft. It is clearly hammered, with 8 faceted edges. It widens slightly near the soldered end. It is immobile and stable. However, as a precautionary measure, lift the object by the dome, not the pin.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Analysis

Aim: To sample the black residue inside the boss

Using the tip of a metal pin, dislodged clump of black residue from inside boss. Retained in sample vial 2. Previously a larger sample had been taken, perhaps during repacking. It was retained in sample vial 1. This larger clump contains some light green material as well.

No further work was deemed necessary for the object to be displayed in Lichfield.

The paper K number could not be attached because there is no space for it. Adhering the label to the interior as would contaminate remaining residues.

A new storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was constructed to house the object. A strip of Tyvek (spunbonded polyethylene fabric) was used as a cushion for the object and to help lift it out of the foam.

Analysis Undertaken:

XRF analysis of the object was performed. See document 'K1536 XRF Report'.

Samples:

1. Large clump of black residue from inside; also contains light green material
2. Smaller clump of black residue from inside

Key Features:

- Beaded filigree decoration
- Black residue inside boss
- Pin in situ, soldered to interior surface