

K154 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 01/11/12

Conservation Finished: 01/11/12

Conservator: Deborah Magnoler

Time Taken: 2 hrs

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 20.5 mm (W) 7 mm (W2) 6 (Th) 0.9 mm

Weight before: 0.86g

Weight after: 0.79g

Catalogue number: 558

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

A gold, rectangular (narrower at one end) panel with a snake filigree decoration on one side and a plain back. The snake features an unusual U shaped head. It's body is composed of seven sections of curved wire (thick, flanked by thin wire), forming a knot. There is a line of beaded wire around the border: this is not a single continuous line, but it's made of two portions. Lay-down lines are visible around the wire sections.

Associated Objects: possibly K438, similar snake pane (headless)

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

Almost entirely covered in soil before conservation. A slight dark tarnish was revealed after cleaning. There are dents on some of the beads, and micro scratches on the gold backing; none of this damage has occurred in recent times (during or post-exc.). There is a dark patch on the back. The object has no loose components and is stable.

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, cotton wool swabs, cocktail stick,.

The granular soil on the front was mechanically removed or reduced where possible using a fine thorn tip secured in a pin vice and a small pure bristle brush. IMS was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of IMS. The back was not cleaned.

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:

Many beads on the larger wire show seams. The finer wire is inaccurately executed in points. There are visible lay-down lines around the wire sections. The back shows a pattern of slightly protruding lines where the wire is soldered at the front.

Key Features:

- Unusual U shaped head
- Lay-down lines
- Poorly executed fine beaded wire.

Analysis Undertaken:

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

Samples:

References: