

K1555 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 18/05/2012

Conservation Finished: 18/05/2012

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 3 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (H) 18mm (W) 9.5mm (Th) 2mm

Weight before: 1.36g

Weight after: 1.37g

Catalogue number: 520

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 and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: None

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

'Filled U'-shaped gold fitting with animal head at the 'bottom' of the U and a flat gold flange (~2mm wide) on the 'top' of the U shape. with cloisonné garnet decoration on the front. There are 11 cells and 11 garnets. All garnets are cherry-red in colour and have waffle-pattern gold backing foils.

Associated Objects: None known at present

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

One garnet is broken; one corner of it is missing and the void is filled with soil. All other garnets are intact, though several are sunken or slightly tilted in their cells. All of the garnets are covered with a thin, hazy, whitish residue that dulls their lustre. Two garnets are loose in their cells and move when touched with a cocktail stick. As this object is travelling these cells will need to be consolidated to prevent the garnets from falling out during handling, transport, or display.

The flange is dented and has dark grey tarnish. Gold on the front, sides, and head has light to moderate tarnish and a somewhat dull finish.

The back of the object is plain gold with heavy iridescent/multicolour tarnish and a 'dry skin' texture in places.

There is an open but stable crack on one side of the animal's neck. There is an additional stable crack ~1mm long at the point where the flange meets the body.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Display / Study

Aim: Stabilisation and to attach the K number

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, cotton swab, cocktail stick, thorn in pin vice/holder, water on garnets, water/IMS on metals, Paraloid B72

Two cells required consolidation to prevent garnets from falling out; HMG brand Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) from the tube was applied as semi-dry balls, placed on the gap between the garnets and cell walls, and activated with acetone. This was done to minimise the amount of adhesive that makes its way behind the garnet and into any paste.

For aesthetic reasons the garnets were swabbed with a small amount of filtered water to remove the film.

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 new storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was constructed to house 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:

The two loose garnets are now secure and in reduced danger of falling out with handling or transport. A very small amount of soil was removed from gold areas. The garnets now appear brighter as the residue on the surface was removed. Otherwise the condition of the object is as described previously.

Key Features:

- Cloisonné, foiled garnets
- Animal head
- Flange

Samples:

None taken