

K1560 Condition Report

EXPOSED FOIL ON BACK; HANDLE WITH CARE

Conservation Started: 15/04/2013

Conservation Finished: 16/04/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 1 hour

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (Diameter) 4.5mm (D) 2.5mm (H) 2mm

Weight before: 0.12g

Weight after: 0.12g

Catalogue number: 618

Digital photography:

Taken with a Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights, 20-200x 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

Round cabochon garnet with textured gold foil backing in a gold setting with one plain wire and one beaded filigree wire around the base of the setting. The beaded wire is at the base of the setting with the plain wire immediately above it. Above the plain wire is a lip of plain gold holding the garnet in place. The reverse is a torn plain gold sheet.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The reverse is plain gold sheet with jagged break edges pointing upward where the object was torn off whatever it was once attached to.

A textured gold foil is visible on the back inside the setting. It is partially covered with soil.

The gold on both sides has moderate rose to orange tarnish (likely post-excavation) as well as general abrasion and old-looking dents.

The garnet appears to be intact and in good condition. There is a little soil around the garnet and the wires on the front.

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, 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.

A storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was made for housing the object. The object is housed in a gelatine capsule.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Soil removal on the back uncovered the textured gold foil backing for the garnet. The foil has bumps on it as well as some unknown green deposits (corrosion product? remains of paste?). The foil is secure but **handle with care**.

The garnet and the wires can be better seen. The garnet is intact and in good condition, with no visible chips or cracks. The gold foil cannot be seen through the garnet because it has been dislodged; the foil can only be seen from the back, protruding from the torn area behind the garnet.

Apart from the small amount of soil removal, the condition of the object is the same as pre-conservation, with general rose to orange tarnish (likely post-excavation) and surface abrasions/dents.

Key Features:

- Round cabochon garnet in gold setting
- One plain wire and one beaded wire around base of setting
- Textured gold foil visible on back with unknown green deposits on surface

Samples:

None