

K1663 Condition Report 2010

K1663 photo before treatment



K1663 photo after treatment



Conservation started: 02/12/2010
Conservation finished: 08/12/2010
Time taken: 6 Hours
Conservator's initials: MCG

Dimensions: (L) 30mm (W) 12mm (D) 5mm (Th) sheet 0.25mm
Weight after: 1.42 g
Catalogue number: 462

Digital photography

The digital photos were taken with a Nikon Coolpix 4500 under neon lamps and a Meiji Techno RZ stereo microscope with fibre optic lights and 7.5 -75 X magnification.

Description

A gold fish mount constructed from gold filigree wire, solid gold wire and gold sheet. It is in the form of a rectangular fish body with a triangular tail and four fins. The head is damaged, and is bent upwards from the body, although it appears to have

originally had a long wide open mouth. The back is made from several flat gold sheets. A single sheet has been used for the whole length however from the first fins onwards to the head several overlapping plates seem to have been used. Also another piece has been attached at the back to make up the tail plate. The front decoration consists of a central filigree spine of around 1mm diameter with thinner solid wire to either side. On either side of this is a 'herring bone' pattern constructed from alternating bands of smaller filigree and solid wire. The outer edge of the fish is then delimited by a solid wire of medium diameter with a length of extra wire on the outside where the fins are attached. The fins are decorated internally in a similar manner. The tail is delimited by a solid wire surround, however the final section of the tail only comprises of the back plate with no filigree or wire decoration. There are no signs of how the mount was attached.

Condition

Visual examination using a Meiji stereo microscope with fibre optic lights and 7.5 - 75 X magnification.

The front surface has an encrusted mud layer especially in the indentations of the filigree. This consists of a brown soil with many orange mineral inclusions. The back is fairly clear of soil. Both sides, but especially the back, are tarnished with a rainbow/blackened appearance which may suggest heating. There are several pieces of burnt wood present around the tail area on the front of the mount.

The front surface shows minor surface scratching all over. The head itself has been bent upwards and is also twisted out of shape. The sideways profile is also distorted by the lower second fin. There is a large gouge with parallel scratches on the back of this fin. Another area of gouging is present on the front by the lower section of the tail. On the back there are many light, bright scratch marks running parallel to those present in the fin gouge. There are several circular holes on the back which look similar to blow holes that can form when casting metal. There is a tear in the back plate that makes up the back fin on one edge. Another small tear is present a few centimetres along from this.

Treatment

Purpose: Display analysis study

Aim: Total cleaning/ Partial carbonised wood left in situ

Materials: soft natural brushes, cotton swab, cocktail stick, thorn and vice; water on garnets; IMS on metals

Method: dislodging of soil with thorns and/or cocktail stick; brushing off particles with brushes/removal of particles with dry cotton swab

Softening of soil with solvent; dislodging of soil with thorn and/or cocktail stick, removal of particles with brush; cleaning of surface with solvent in cotton swab

UPDATE LM 28.10.15: Additional cleaning of soil from tail at request of CF. IMS used to soften then gently picked away with natural thorn held in pin vice.

Samples:

1. Soil/possible charcoal